THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME SEVENTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero, de Orat. lib. ii.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, AND JO. AND JA. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL, J. DEBRETT, AND J. SEWEL, LONDON; DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW; ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

MDCC,XCIII.



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5	Abbey of ditto,	2509	10792	8283	—	74
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8	Walston,	479	427	—	52	116
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29	Ballingry,	464	220	—	244	312
30	Gladsmuir,	1415	1380	—	35	316
	Carried over,	39627	62320	24354	1661	

* This was the population in 1779. No return is made for 1792.

† The present population of Monteith is not expressly mentioned, but only in general that it is decreased; it is therefore stated 100 lower than that of 1755.

‡ The minister of Contin having only stated the number of examinable persons, the usual proportion for children is here added.

§ For the same reason a proportional addition is made here.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1791-2.	Increaſe	Dec.	Page.
	Brought over,	39627	62320	24354	1661	
31	Dunblane, - -	2728	2750	22	—	323
32	Inverury, -	730	372	—	358	331
33	Rouſay and Egliſhay,	978	1072	94	—	336
34	Arbroath, - -	2098	*4676	2578	—	340
35	St Quivox, -	499	1450	951	—	353
36	Cabrach, - -	960	700	—	260	361
37	Banchory Tarnan,	1736	1340	—	396	369
38	Weſt Monkland, -	1813	4000	2187	—	375
39	Dunroſsneſs, - -	2295	3327	1032	—	391
40	Glaſs, - -	1000	970	—	30	399
41	Oldhamſtocks, -	622	498	—	124	402
42	Fodderty, - -	1483	1730	247	—	410
43	Strichen, - -	1158	1400	242	—	416
44	Leſmahagoe, -	2996	2810	—	186	420
45	Craigniſh, - -	769	770	1	—	436
46	Croſs, Burneſs, and North Ronaldſhay,	1250	1389	139	—	450
47	Ladykirk, - -	750	†803	53	—	462
48	Yarrow, - -	1180	1230	50	—	500
49	Carſefairn, - -	609	461	—	148	513
50	Bower, - -	1287	1592	305	—	521
51	Kirkwall and St Ola,	1989	2550	561	—	529
52	Reay, - -	2262	2298	36	—	570
53	Aithſting and Sanſting,	911	1285	374	—	580
54	Muirkirk, - -	745	1100	355	—	598
55	Dundonald, -	983	1317	334	—	615
	Total,	73458	104210	33915	3163	
	Population in 1755,	- - -	73458	3163		
		- - -				
	Increaſe in 1792,	- - -	30752	30752		

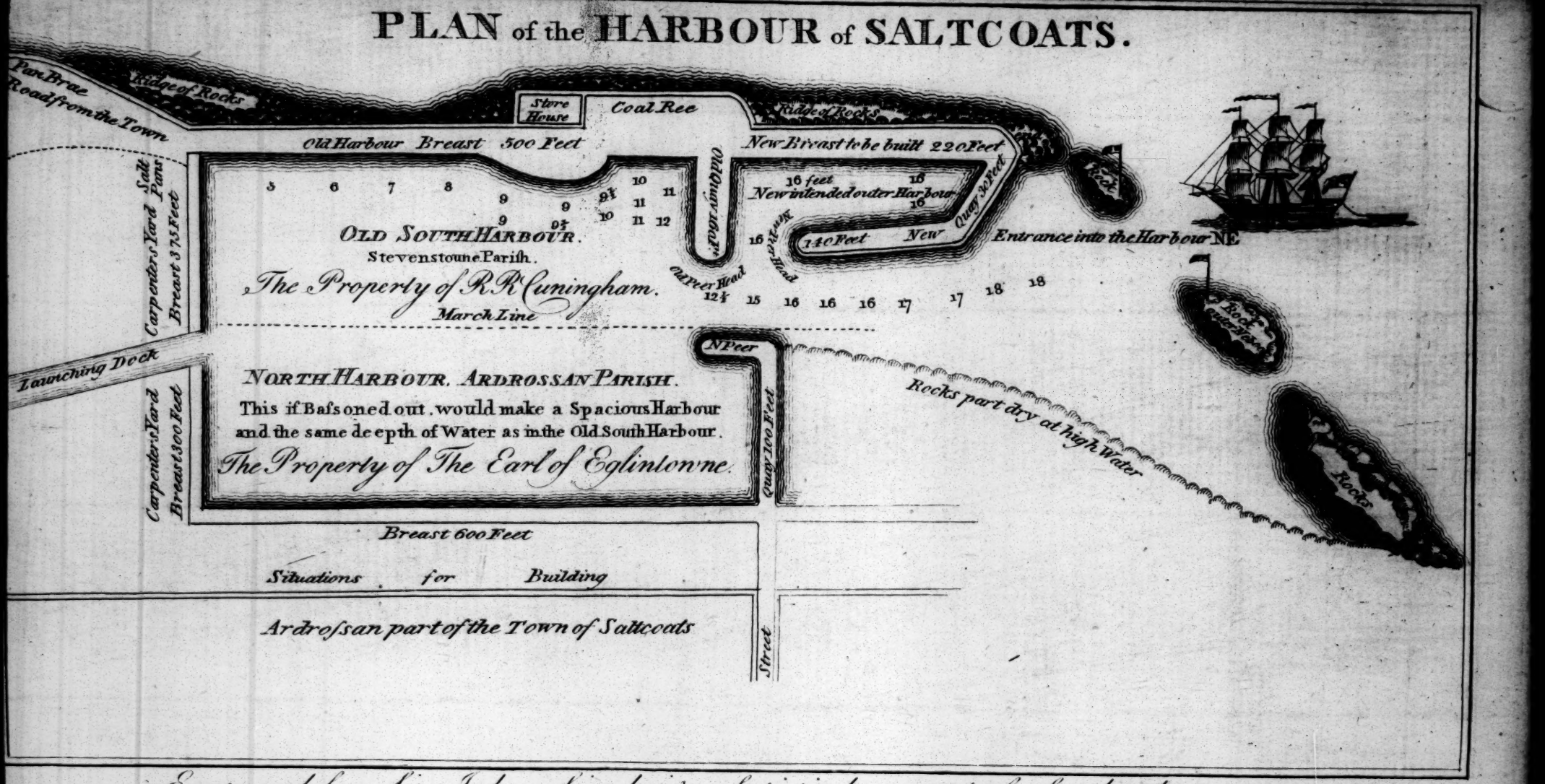
* In this number, 638 inhabitants of that part of Arbroath, which belongs to the pariſh of St Vigeans, are not included. The addition of that number would make the increaſe 2216.

† This was the population in 1787. The pariſh being now vacant, no return is made for 1791-2.

ERRATA ET ADDENDA.

Page 47	Line 2	*after* perſons *add* the return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 1294
134	11	*after* upwards *add* the population in 1755 was 1294
119	6	*for* war *read* year
312	11	for *Judicorum* read *Judaeorum*
334	4	*for* were *read* was
395	1	*for* 2295 *read* 2095

PLAN of the HARBOUR of SALTCOATS.

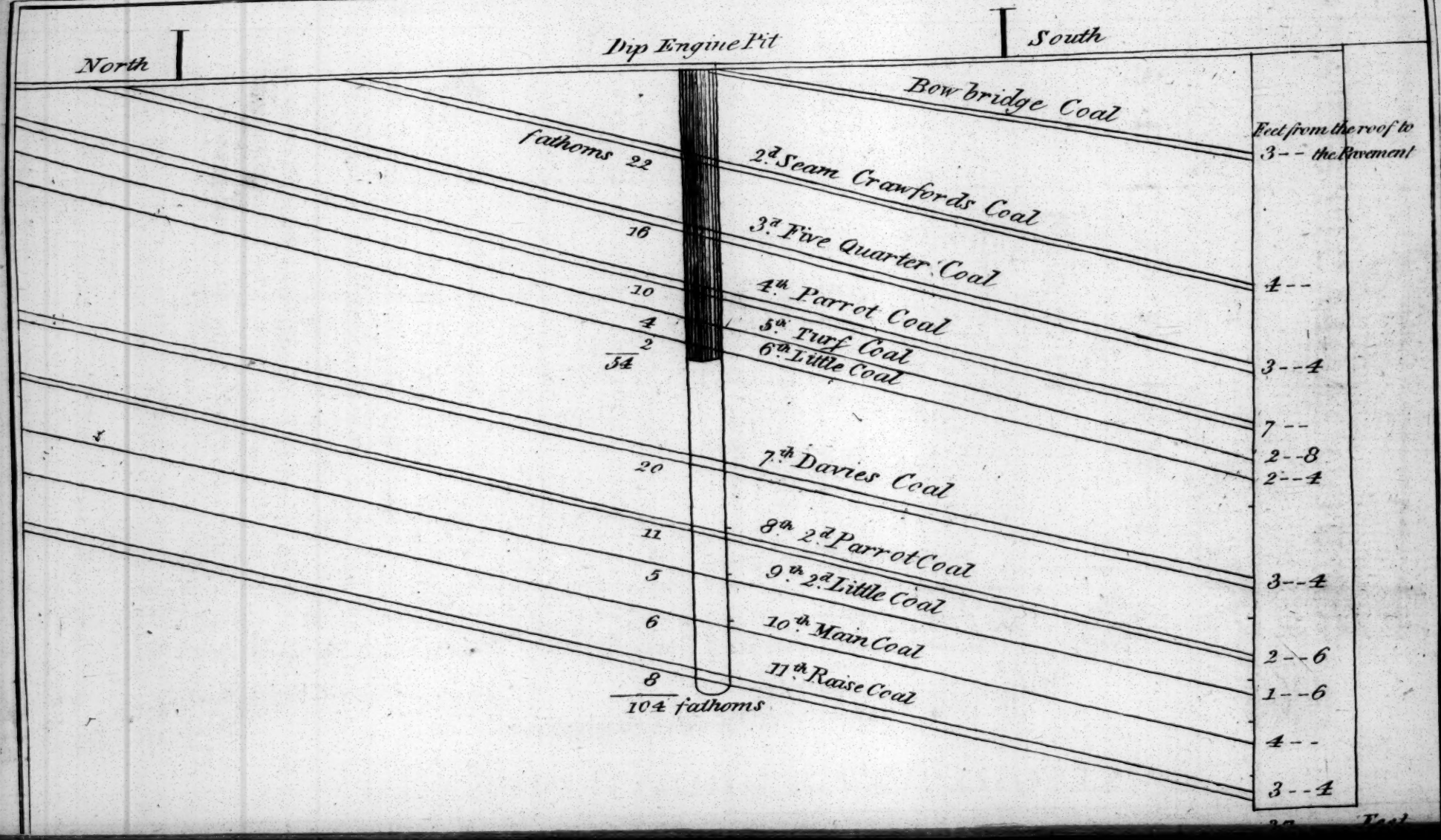


Engraved for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical account of Scotland

SKETCH of ELEVEN SEAMS of COAL near SALTCOATS AYRSHIRE.

Engraved for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland

SKETCH of ELEVEN SEAMS of COAL near SALTCOATS IN AYRSHIRE.



STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART VII.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF STEVENSTON.

(County of Ayr.—Preſbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Dr JAMES WODROW.

Name, Ancient Hiſtory, &c.

THE name of this pariſh is ſaid to have been derived from a perſon called *Stephen*, who came from Ireland and ſettled here; or, perhaps, from the church having been dedicated to Saint Stephen. It was probably an appendage of the abbacy of Kilwinning. The Houſe of Kerrila, the only old caſtle in the pariſh (which was lately inhabited by the proprietors, the Hamiltons of Grange, but is now

a ruin), belonged, according to tradition, to the abbot. After the Reformation, the then Earl of Glencairn, who became proprietor of the whole pariſh, lived in it. The concave roof of the old hall in that caſtle, a very ſpacious ſquare room, was ornamented with the coats of arms of the greateſt part of the Scottiſh nobility. In the year 1678, the pariſh was very inconſiderable, if we may judge from the proportion of aſſeſſment it paid towards the maintenance of the Highland Hoſt, and other exactions, during thoſe unhappy times. It muſt then have conſiſted of farmers only, who do not make a tenth part of the inhabitants at preſent. The two populous towns of *Saltcoats* and *Stevenſton*, have riſen almoſt within the preſent century. There was, indeed, about a quarter of a mile eaſt from the latter, a group of 14 or 16 houſes, chiefly inhabited by perſons who manufactured, or played on *the trump*, or Jew's harp, the ruins of which lately remained; and one of the coal pits contiguous to their ancient dwellings, is ſtill called the *Piper-heugh*. This pariſh lies on the northern ſhore of the Bay of Ayr; its form is a kind of irregular ſquare, two miles and a half in length, and about as much in breadth; but beyond this, the ſandy ground ſtretches two miles farther to the ſouth-eaſt, and terminates on a point of land oppoſite to Irvine Harbour. The two rivers Garnock and Irvine, meet near this place, and their waters immediately enter the Atlantic. The line of ſhore between the Harbours of Irvine and Saltcoats is about five miles, and thus is nearly double the length of the northern boundary. The town of Stevenſton is centrical, with reſpect to the inhabited part of the pariſh. The church ſtands on an elevated ridge, immediately above the town, and commands a very extenſive and delightful proſpect of the whole bay of Ayr, narrowed by a long ſtretch of the mountainous coaſt of Carrick towards the S. E. diſtant about

five

five or ſix leagues. Correſponding to this, on the weſt ſide, at a ſeemingly equal diſtance, appears the greateſt part of the romantic Iſland of Arran, with its ſtill more lofty and tremendous mountains, and broken creeks. Between this Iſland and Carrick, the ſea opens unbounded to the eye; and the beautiful regular rock Ailza appears, as if ſet down exactly in the middle of the opening, about 40 miles diſtant.

Sea Coaſt.—The five miles line of ſhore is quite a ſandy beech, on which the ſea deepens in the moſt gradual manner imaginable. Hence, during a weſterly ſtorm, it is formidable to ſuch ſhips as have the misfortune to be here embayed, as they ſtrike the ground at a conſiderable diſtance from the ſhore, which is covered with a dangerous ſurf. The ſandy beech begins at Saltcoats, and ſweeps round by Irvine, along the whole coaſt of Kyle, for more than 20 miles, to the mouth of the river *Doon* or *Dune* beyond Ayr; interrupted only by a ſmall peninſula of rocky ground at the *Trune*. The coaſt of Carrick, beginning at Doon, is rocky, as is likewiſe the coaſt of Cunningham northward from Saltcoats towards Greenock. The Harbours of Ayr and Irvine within their reſpective rivers, the mouth of which is croſſed by *a bar* or bank of ſand, cannot be entered but at ſpring tides; and the harbour of Saltcoats, which is a natural one, at an ordinary tide; and none of the three can at any time admit ſhips above 220 tons burden. Accordingly, when they are checked within this bay by a weſterly ſtorm, which ſometimes continues for ſeveral days together, it is impoſſible for them to make the ſafe road of Lamlaſh in Arran, on the weſt, and equally ſo to clear the rocky ſhore of Cunningham, and the point of Pencroſs, ſix miles N. W. of Saltcoats, in order to get ſhelter in the Fairlie Road. There is only one particular place in this open bay, which will afford them

ſhelter

ſhelter in ſuch a ſituation, viz. under the *Lady Iſle*, a ſmall uninhabited rocky iſland, about two miles S. W. of the *Trune*, and near four miles N. W. of Ayr, on which there are two beacons or *ſpires*, erected by the town of Glaſgow about 17 years ago. If the diſtreſſed ſhip can get to the ſouth-eaſt of this little Iſland, between it and *Ayr*, and bring theſe two ſpires to bear in a line with herſelf, ſhe may drop her anchors with ſafety, within a cable's length of the ſhore, in water from 10 to 14 fathoms deep, on very good ground *.

Appearance and Soil of the Pariſh.—The pariſh naturally divides itſelf into two diſtricts, the upper incloſed farms on the north, and the low ſandy plain on the ſea. The laſt is narrower, but nearly double the length of the firſt. The ground of the upper pariſh is unequal, many parts level, mixed with little hills, and continued ſtretches of riſing ground, toward the boundaries; and this track will ſoon exhibit a fine appearance, from the riſing belts, and plantations of Mr Hamilton's eſtate, and his very elegant houſe lately built in the middle of it. The prevailing *ſoil* here is *clay*, not very ſtiff, but eaſily ſubdued. There are alſo ſeveral fields of kindly *gravel* and rich *loam*.

The lower ſouth diviſion is a continued plain, the inequalities made by the ſand hills, as they call them, excepted, ſome of which are above 30 or 40 feet high. The ſoil here is pure ſand throughout; yet the ſtratum of clay prevalent in the higher ground continues under the ſand, and has been once bare, and cultivated nearer the ſea than at preſent; for a ſection of the clay, in a regular curved line (the undoubted

* Some ſhips ſaved themſelves here, while fourteen others were wrecked, December 8th 1789, on the Kyle and Carrick coaſts.

doubted veſtige of ancient plowed ridges) is frequently laid open to the eye, on the ſides of the canal and other deep drains.

A ſteep ridge of rocky ground, the greateſt part of which is now covered with ſoil, runs for two miles nearly in a ſtraight line from weſt to eaſt, between theſe two tracks of the pariſh, and ſuddenly raiſes the upper plain to a conſiderable height above the lower. On the weſt end of this ridge, where it dips into the ſea, is the town of Saltcoats, built on the rocks. More than a mile eaſt, immediately under the ridge, is the town of Stevenſton, adorned with trees, and two gentlemen's houſes, with their parks at ſome diſtance, one on each ſide of it. All the reſt of the plain, conſiderably elevated to the eaſt, exhibits a waſte and dreary proſpect of ſand, which blows in ſome places, and is prevented only by the deep-rooted *bent* growing through it, from being reduced to a dead level. At preſent, the ſand-hills or mounds are continually ſinking, and laying open to the eye the ſpires of Irvine, and other land objects, never ſeen before. In a courſe of time, the inland part of theſe ſands, raiſed by the ſtorms from the ſea, will cover a little more of our cultivated ground; and the outer part of them, undermined by the ſpring tides, and blown by the dry N. E. winds, will gradually raiſe the bottom, and narrow the bounds of the ſea, which has in fact retired in a very ſenſible manner within the laſt 30 years *.

There

* There is little ground to doubt, that theſe and the other adjoining tracks of ſand conſiſt of the ſoil of the upper country, carried by land floods down the large rivers of Irvine and Garnock into the ſea, beaten back again inceſſantly by the tides, and thus reduced to their preſent ſtate and form. At every land flood, the ſea appears to the eye brown and muddy

There is little ſea-weed thrown in upon the ſandy ſhore, but abundance on the neighbouring ſhores of Ardroſſan and Kilbride, where it is chiefly uſed as manure to their barley grounds. There are very few white fiſh caught in the open bay. From the ſhores contiguous to Saltcoats, we are ſufficiently

muddy for a mile round the mouth of theſe rivers. Every appearance indicates, that, at a very remote period, the ſea covered the whole tracks, for the upper ſoil is looſe ſea ſand, without a ſtone in it—that, at a leſs remote period, perhaps ſeveral centuries ago, the ſea covered the lower part of the track neareſt Saltcoats, waſhed the whole rocky ridge above deſcribed, and ſtretching N. E. through low marſhy grounds, went within leſs than a mile of Kilwinning, and thus left the eaſt part of Stevenſton ſand hills more elevated than the reſt, together with part of the pariſhes of Kilwinning and Irvine, in the form of a circular iſland, three miles in diameter, ſurrounded either totally by the ſea, or in part by the Garnock, which ſeems to have then held a more weſterly courſe than at preſent. The proofs of the inſular ſituation of that part of the coaſt, and that it was probably a deer iſland, are theſe—The anchors of boats dug out of the lower marſhy grounds—The name of the eſtate of Patrick Warner, Eſq; the proprietor of a great part of the track, *Ardeer*, (the only Gaelic name in the pariſh) —The old houſe ſtood on a part of the rocky ridge, which juts out beyond the reſt like a *promontory*—Two pair of branching deers horns, lately found; one pair with part of the ſcull ſticking to them, dug out of the ground 30 feet deep; the other at a leſs depth, diſcovered by the courſe of Stevenſton burn; both now in the poſſeſſion of that gentleman—A cave under ground, diſcovered about two years ago, near the ſame gentleman's houſe, or a cavity in a ſolid rock of free ſtone, 24 feet long, 12 wide, and 6 high. The ſtone in the bottom of this cave, and in the ſides, two feet up, is poliſhed or worn ſmooth in ſuch a manner, as leaves no doubt that it muſt have been waſhed either by the waves of the ſea, now above a mile diſtant, or by the courſe of a river. The river is above three miles diſtant.—*Laſtly*, An old atlas, ſaid to have been in Eglinton Caſtle about the beginning of this century, in which there was a chart of the coaſt, exhibiting this inſular appearance. It is doubtful, however, whether this change be ſo recent that it could appear in any chart; but the fact itſelf ſeems ſufficiently eſtabliſhed.

ciently ſupplied with ſhell fiſh of all kinds, except oyſters. Of theſe there are very few on any part of the weſt coaſt. There is a ſmall ſalmon fiſhing at the mouth of the rivers Garnock and Irvine, from whence they ſometimes come along the whole ſhore of the pariſh, and are caught near Saltcoats Harbour. The ſalmon ſeldom make their appearance in theſe rivers till about the beginning of July. They are inferior in taſte and quality to thoſe caught in the other rivers of Ayrſhire. In general, the ſeaſon of the ſalmon is earlier, and their quality better, according as the rivers lie farther to the ſouth, that is, according as they become clearer, and their channels more rocky, by their approach towards the mountainous part of the country. There is a ſmall freſh water lake covering, perhaps, about 30 acres of ground, at the N. E. point of the pariſh, where it meets with the pariſhes of Kilwinning and Ardroſſan. No fiſhes are caught in it, except a few perches and pikes.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—In conſequence of the dry ſituation, and the ſouth and weſt winds which blow into the open bay for three fourths of the year, the air is in general ſalubrious, and the climate more mild by ſeveral degrees, than in the higher country; ſnow being ſeldom ſeen in the lower part of the pariſh for 24 hours. The climate is alſo more dry; the loaded clouds often paſſing on till they touch the hills. Nevertheleſs, rheumatiſms, coughs, and conſumptions are as frequent as in the inland pariſhes: *Epidemical fevers* perhaps more frequent. The ravages of the *ſmall-pox* are ſometimes dreadful, among the children of the families who neglect inoculation. The *meaſles* and the *chincough* are ſeldom, I might ſay, almoſt never, mortal. The *ſtopping*, or *croop*, a diſeaſe ſaid to be attached to the ſea-coaſt, has made

its

its appearance twice or thrice within these 30 years, and cut off between 12 and 20 young children at a time.

Sea-Bathing.—Saltcoats is the principal watering place in Ayrshire. From 300 to 500 people usually resort there, during the Summer months, for sea-bathing, from the inland country, especially from the towns of Paisley, Glasgow, and Hamilton.

Minerals.—There is a mineral well in the north quarter of the parish, of the same kind with the chalybeate spring at Moffat, but weaker; and, probably, several other springs impregnated with iron, if one may judge from their taste, and the tinge they leave on the clay or sand from whence they issue. A vein of iron stone, from 10 to 14 inches thick, has been lately found between the coal strata. The upper parish abounds in different strata of *stone*, *whin*, flag, and *free stone*, both the softer and harder kinds, which are worked whenever there is occasion for them: And in the sandy grounds, near Mr Warner's house, there are inexhaustable quarries of post free-stone, fifty feet thick, of a very white and excellent kind, susceptible of a fine polish. This is carried into the inland country, for tomb-stones; and often by water, along the coast, to gentlemen's seats, for hearths, stairs, gates, &c. It is also exported to Londonderry and Dublin, and sells there at 1 l. 12 s. *per* ton of stone, which is 16 feet, *i. e.* 2 s. *per* cubical foot.—Beneath the rocks on which Saltcoats stands, and within the sea-mark, there is found a kind of black stone, which has the appearance of a coarse marble, but without the calcareous quality of marble or limestone. On the contrary, it stands any ordinary fire, and on this account is much used as *cheeks*, in which they fix their grates. Fitted up in this manner, these have

have perfectly the appearance of Carron grates. In the upper part of the pariſh, there is plenty of good limeſtone. Two of the proprietors have draw-kilns, which are kept going for a conſiderable part of the year, to anſwer the ordinary demand of lime for building, and eſpecially for manure, which is purchaſed by their own tenants, and by the farmers of the country weſtward along the ſhore, where there is none of it. Notwithſtanding this abundance, a ſmall quantity of Iriſh limeſtone is imported at Saltcoats, as ballaſt, in the coal ſhips. The lime made of it is whiter than the Scots, and anſwers better for plaiſter-work, and for caſting of houſes and walls.

Saltcoats.—The principal object worthy of attention in this pariſh is the town of Saltcoats, and the *coal-mines* in its neighbourhood, which have furniſhed an article of exportation from that town to Ireland for near a century back. The town is ſingularly ſituated, on the limits of the two pariſhes of Stevenſton and Ardroſſan, and almoſt equally divided between them. There were leaſes of houſes and gardens granted to a few families as long ago as the year 1565. But it is certain, from unqueſtionable traditionary teſtimony (that of parents to their children now living) that a century after that time, or about 130 years ago, there were only *four* houſes in Saltcoats, which now conſiſts of about 400. Yet at a much remoter period, *ſalt* mas made there; which appears not only from tradition, but from the remains of conſiderable heaps of aſhes ſouth and north of the preſent town. It was then made by poor people, in their little pans or kettles. They digged up the coal near the ſurface of the ground, at a very ſmall expence, and lived in huts on the ſhore. Hence, probably, the name of *Saltcotes* or *Cottages*.

The improvement of diſtricts, and even of countries and kingdoms, ſeems to depend, not ſo much upon a natural and regular tendency in the *progreſs of ſociety* towards improvement, as upon the happy ſpirit of particular men, raiſed up by Providence from time to time, endued with uncommon talents themſelves, and capable of rouſing the talents, ſtimulating the exertions, and directing the induſtry of others. Of this ſort was a Robert Cunningham of Auchinharvie, who, by the death of his uncle Sir Robert Cunningham, phyſician to Charles II. became proprietor of this whole pariſh, during the latter part of the laſt century. Mr Cunningham, with a very enterpriſing genius, and perſevering ſpirit, made trial, at a great expence, on the different ſeams of coal, bored, and alſo put down ſhafts or pits at conſiderable diſtances from one another, to aſcertain their declivity, their thickneſs, their qualities, with the principal *troubles* or obſtructions to them. Theſe things he aſcertained with an exactneſs that ſurpriſed his ſucceſſors, who are ſtill in poſſeſſion of ſome of his papers, and have ſeldom found him far miſtaken in his conjectures about this dark ſubterraneous field. He drove a level mine under ground, through his own and part of Lord Eglinton's eſtate, for a mile and a half, and thus laid the upper part of ſeveral of the ſeams dry. After this, he began to turn out a much greater quantity of coal than ever had been done before; and to open a door for the exportation of it, and thus compleat his great and uſeful deſign, he ſet about building a *Harbour* at Saltcoats, carrying on this work entirely at his own charges, amidſt many difficulties and diſcouragements from its expoſed ſituation; the Winter ſtorms, for ſeveral years, demoliſhing part of what he had done during the preceding Summer. At laſt, he compleated the Harbour, about the year 1700; and, with ſome ſmall reparations, it ſtands to this day,

day, a monument of his public ſpirit and enterpriſe. He built ſalt-pans, with all their appendages, to conſume the uſeleſs part of the coal. By theſe expenſive ſchemes, however, he hurt his fortune, and was obliged to ſell a conſiderable part of his eſtate, reſerving to himſelf the track of it neareſt Saltcoats, with a ſervitude for working the coal on the reſt.

For 60 years after his death, the coal continued to be worked in different places of the pariſh. A fire or ſteam-engine was erected near Saltcoats in the 1719, the ſecond then in Scotland. The ſmall cylinder of it was brought from London, only 18 inches in diameter, not much larger than their preſent pumps. It could, therefore, raiſe little water. The work was carried on with a cautious ſpirit, and moderate ſucceſs, yielding a maintenance to miners, ſalters, and many others employed in carrying the coals; the ſhipping of Saltcoats increaſing in the mean time gradually, but ſlowly, till about 20 years ago, when a new and very ſucceſsful puſh towards improvement was made. This ſhall be explained immediately. But in order to render it intelligible, it will be neceſſary to attempt ſome deſcription of the coal-field, which the writer of this has been enabled to do, from papers put into his hands by the preſent Robert Cunningham, Eſq; one of the proprietors, and the ſole conductor of the work.

Deſcription of the ſubterraneous Coal Strata.—Coal has been wrought not far from the ſurface in moſt places of the pariſh; but the proper coal-field now, is the lower ſandy diviſion, the ſurface of which has been deſcribed, from Saltcoats on the weſt point to the river Garnock on the eaſt; an oval piece of ground, above four miles in length, and a mile

or

or more in breadth. In this field there are eleven ſtrata or ſeams of workable coal, which uſually *dip* (decline downward) one fathom in five, towards the ſouth, or the ſea, but in a circular direction, from the ſouth-weſt to the ſouth-eaſt; and they all *riſe* towards the land in the oppoſite direction. The firſt or uppermoſt of theſe ſeams *crops out* * neareſt the ſea, and the reſt follow it towards the land, at regular diſtances; all the different ſeams being perfectly parallel to one another. The diſtance, or reſpective deepneſs, with the thickneſs of the ſeveral ſeams, will beſt appear from the annexed ſketch.

The ſketch exhibits a ſmall ſection of the eleven ſeams, as they would appear to the eye if they were viſible, with ſomewhat of their proportional diſtances. They yield coal of different qualities, all good and quick burning, except the laſt, *the raiſe coal*, which is duller than the reſt, and chiefly uſed in making ſalt and lime; but it has alſo been exported. The preſent dip-engine pit is cradled on the pavement of the firſt ſeam. The figures on the left ſide, mark the diſtances of the reſpective ſeams from one another *in fathoms*, and conſequently, their perpendicular depth, *at that place*, from the ſurface of the ground. The figures on the right hand mark the thickneſs, from the roof to the pavement, of the ſeveral ſeams, in feet and inches. From theſe things it appears, that from the pavement of the firſt ſeam to that of the eleventh, is 104 fathoms; conſequently, if the engine-pit were removed ſo far to the *dip* as to take hold of firſt ſeam, or Bow-bridge coal, at a depth of 20 fathoms, it would take hold of the whole 11 ſeams at the depth of 124 fathoms, which is ſaid to be leſs than the depth from which coals are raiſed at Newcaſtle and Whitehaven; and ſuch

* Engliſh technical term, *Baſſets out.*

ſuch a pit would command * 37 feet of good coal, which is ſaid to be more than they raiſe from the ſame depth at either of theſe places. And along with the coal they could raiſe, with little expence, a vein of iron-ſtone, lying upon the roof of the ſeventh ſeam of coal. But this is an enterpriſe which muſt be left to future generations. At preſent, the dip engine-pit, reaches only 54 fathoms, and takes in only five of the ſeams, viz. from the pavement of the firſt: And though the engine on that pit has a cylinder 5 feet in diameter, and a 16 inch working barrel, yet they were juſtly afraid that it would not be able to manage the prodigious weight of water; ſo that they have lately erected on the *riſe* pit (40 fathoms deep), a ſecond ſteam-engine, with a $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet cylinder, and a $13\frac{1}{2}$ inch working barrel, which it is to be hoped will do their buſineſs effectually; and they have at preſent a field of coal on the *level* and *riſe*, which will probably ſerve them for a generation or two.

Subterraneous Diviſions of the Coal Fields.—1. This very extenſive field of coal, reaching from Saltcoats to Garnock, is cut into three parts, by two great galls or dikes that run through the whole field, nearly in a line from north to ſouth. The firſt weſtern diviſion next Saltcoats was wrought improperly in the 1719; and the greateſt part of it remains, very much incommoded with water, open to future adventurers. It is bounded on the eaſt by the *Caponcraig Gall*, a great dike of hard whin-ſtone, above 20 yards thick, at leaſt where it appears at the ſurface, ſinking perpendicularly into the earth to an unknown depth. This dike

* In the eaſtern part of the field, there are two thin ſeams, beſides thoſe exhibited, lying between the 9th and 10th, one of 3 feet, and another of 2 feet 4 inches, which would make the thickneſs of the whole coal raiſed there 42 feet 4 inches.

dike does not in the leaſt diſturb the ſtrata of coal where it cuts them, but has the happy effect of keeping off the great waſte of water on the weſt ſide of it, from

2. The ſecond centre diviſion of the coal-field, by much the largeſt which is wrought at preſent. This is bounded on the eaſt by the Piper-heugh gall, a dyke ſmall and thin compared with the former, and the metal or ſubſtance of it ſoft. It is what the miners call a *hitch*, *i. e.* it diſturbs all the ſtrata of coal, of ſtone, and every thing elſe in its neighbourhood, ſo as to make them ſtart ſuddenly about ten or twelve fathoms out of their former inclined plain: But they immediately go on again in a ſimilar declivity, at their regular or parallel diſtances. In this diviſion there is ſaid to be an extent of a field of coal about 2000 yards on the level of the dip engine pit, viz. at 54 fathoms, and all clear to the *riſe* of this.

3. The third or eaſt diviſion reaches from the Piper-heugh-ſtep to another, called the Milldam-ſtep, and gives them an extent of level of about 1500 yards. Here the coal, inſtead of its uſual dip of one fathom in five, dips one in ten. The ſecond and third ſeams become alſo ſo thin as to be worth nothing. And the whole coal, when it approaches towards the laſt named Milldam-ſtep, becomes very much troubled, and turns into what they call *humph*, a black uſeleſs ſubſtance. In all probability it continues in the ſame ſtate to the eaſt, as ſeveral unſucceſsful trials have been made in the pariſh of Kilwinning and on the Muir of Irvine, on the level of the Stevenſton coal, and not a little money ſunk in theſe experiments.

Late ſpirited efforts in working the Coal-mines.—But to trace

a

a little further the late improvements in this pariſh.—About the year 1770, the Auchinharvie eſtate, comprehending the weſtern diviſion of the coal-field, the harbour of Saltcoats, the Salt-pans, and every thing connected with the colleries, came into the poſſeſſion of the preſent Robert Reid Cunningham, a gentleman who inherits a ſufficient portion of the active and enterpriſing ſpirit of his great-grandfather, and has proſecuted his ſchemes with judgment, perſeverance, and ſucceſs. The ſervitude already mentioned, page 11. being then expired, Mr Cunningham entered into a copartnery for a long period with his neighbour Mr Warner, the proprietor of the reſt of the coal-field. They made trial, by ſinking pits between the 2d and 3d diviſions, not diſcouraged by the prodigious depth of ſand, which required three or four hundred men at the beginning to work night and day without intermiſſion, in ſcooping a circle near a hundred feet in diameter at the ſurface, narrowing it gradually, till they reached the clay at the depth of 30 or 36 feet, and were thus able to ſecure themſelves againſt the increaſing force of the under water. Here they found excellent coal, but loaded with the expence of a conſiderable land carriage to Saltcoats, through deep ſands. Mr Cunningham heſitated for ſome time between the two ſchemes of conſtructing a waggon-road, or cutting a canal. He fortunately fixed on the laſt, which was executed at much leſs expence than had been calculated, and free of all the formidable dangers that had been predicted. The canal was finiſhed and navigated September 19. 1772, the firſt upon which any buſineſs was done in Scotland. It is a ditch without any locks, but very wide and deep in ſome places, from the inequality of the ground; $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles long, beſides the long ſide branches afterwards cut to the mouth of every new pit that was opened; twelve feet wide at the bottom, the ſides inclined at an angle of 45 degrees; the

water

water four feet deep; the boats carry for the ſhipping, or the ſalt-pans, from twelve to fifteen tons; the land carriage 600 yards from the weſt end of the canal to the harbour of Saltcoats.

In the year 1778, theſe gentlemen made a new and ſucceſsful trial, where nothing had ever been attempted before, in a field called the *Miſk*, on the banks of the Garnock, at the eaſtern extremity of Mr Warner's eſtate and of the pariſh. There they erected a fire-engine on a pit forty fathoms deep, and wrought the firſt and fourth ſeams, (ſee figure.) They continued in the mean time to work on their weſtern colliery till they were ſtopped by an unconquerable depth of ſand. This obſtacle they endeavoured to ſurmount by a very ingenious effort. They attempted to drive a very ſmall canal under ground, from the bottom of the pit along the level and pavement of the coal, and actually carried this canal more than 200 yards eaſtward; purpoſing, had things anſwered, to have driven it on, the whole way to the Miſk; to have connected their two colleries by means of this ſubterraneous communication, and thus to have ſaved themſelves the enormous expence of ſinking pits from the ſurface along this track. But unfortunately their coal at that place began to degenerate, and turn into humph; ſo that they were forced to abandon this project, and execute another more obvious and practicable for the exportation of the Miſk coal. This was, to cut two ſhort canals above ground, from the Garnock to the mouth of their two pits, with flood-gates facing the river; and to build lighters of thirty tons burden. Into theſe the baſkets full of coals are emptied, or poured, as they come up from the mouth of the pit, at a very ſmall charge; and, ſailing down the canals and the river, the lighters diſcharge their coals either into empty veſſels lying at anchor in the

the bay, or, more frequently, into the Irvine ſhips, which have already taken part of their loading within the bar of their own river, and, for want of depth of water, are unable to complete it. Thus theſe gentlemen have increaſed the trade of the port of Irvine, as well as that of Saltcoats. This work, however, can only be carried on in moderate weather; but no dangerous accidents have hitherto attended it.

At theſe two colleries there are upwards of 200 *men*, excluſive of *boys*, employed, and about 50 horſes: Near 20 of the horſes under ground; the reſt in the gins and land carriage. The ſecondary employment created by the exportation, and by the carriage of an extenſive land ſale, cannot be ſtated.

	Tons.
Produce of the Colleries.—The quantity of *round* coal, *ſplent* coal, ſmall or *pan* coal, raiſed from the Weſt Colliery, taken at an average of twenty years, ending March 27. 1790, amounts yearly to about - - - - -	13,000
The quantity of the ſame, raiſed from the Eaſt or Miſk Colliery, taken at an average of eleven years from the ſame day, amounts yearly to about - - - - - -	10,000
Total annual out-put about	23,000

This is greatly on the increaſe, from the preſent good eſtabliſhment of the work; the Weſtern Colliery alone, during the preſent month, March 1791, having put out more than 500 tons weekly.

Prices of Coal.—The price of the coal here to the ſhipmaſ-

ters is 6s. *per* ton. The Britiſh duty about 1s. 2d. *per* chaldron. The duty by the Iriſh Parliament 8d. *per* ton. Additional duty or tax laid on by the Lord Mayor of Dublin for paving the ſtreets, &c. 1s. 2d. The price in the Dublin market is fluctuating; never below 16s. *per* ton; ſeldom above 20s.; ſometimes it riſes to 30s.; and laſt winter, when the ſhips were kept in their ports by more than two months of weſterly ſtorms, it roſe to 36s. *per* ton. The quantity of Ayrſhire coal imported into the north of Ireland bears but a ſmall proportion to what they receive from Whitehaven. The coal ſhips return here from Dublin in balaſt. Except ſome very trifling articles of proviſion, they bring home the value of their cargoes in hard guineas.

Salt.—The droſs or rubbiſh of the coal, mixed with a little good round coal, is uſed for making *ſalt*. The ſame ſtuff is employed to heat their ſteam engines, and to burn lime, and is ſold for the laſt purpoſe at half price. A new ſalt-pan was erected about two years ago: They talk of building two more. At preſent there are four, all contiguous to the harbour, with a large reſervoir, which, however, unleſs during the heat of ſummer, is of little ſervice in ſtrengthening or evaporating the ſea-water. Though the pans are five miles diſtant from the mouth of the two large rivers; yet, during a track of rainy or of dry weather, there is a very conſiderable difference in the ſtrength of the water, and conſequently in the quantity of ſalt made from it.

	Bolls.	Fir.
The quantity of ſalt made at the pans for four years, ending March 27. 1790, was -	13049	3
Average quantity made yearly, being a fourth of the above - - - -	3262	2

The

The yearly duty payable on the above, at 6 s. *per* boll, is 978 l. 12 s. This, however, is the groſs duty, ſome little diſcount being allowed for ſea waſte, prompt payment, &c. The quantity made will increaſe from the additional ſalt-pan. It is chiefly diſpoſed of by an inland ſale, reaching to the ſkirts of Renfrewſhire and Clydeſdale, till it meet the Borrowſtounneſs ſalt from the eaſt coaſt; which, for I know not what reaſon, ſeems to be made cheaper than on this coaſt, and can therefore bear the expence of a longer land carriage. A cargo of ſalt is ſometimes ſhipped from Saltcoats to the coaſts of Galloway and Nithſdale, but never to Ireland; on the contrary, over the whole weſt coaſt of Scotland, from Mull to the Solway Frith, the Iriſh ſalt is ſmuggled in ſuch quantities as to be very prejudicial to the ſalt manufacturers and to the revenue. Conſidering the high price of coal in Ireland, it may ſeem ſtrange that we ſhould be rivalled and underſold in an article ſo much connected with coal; but it is to be accounted for from theſe circumſtances; that the two proceſſes of making ſalt and burning lime are combined in Ireland, and carried on with the ſame fuel, probably turf; that their ſalt is almoſt free from any duty; and, above all, they have the liberty of importing *rock-ſalt* from the Engliſh mines without any duty, or with a very trifling one. The mineral-ſalt diſſolved in ſea-water makes their proceſs eaſy and cheap, an advantage from which the Britiſh manufacturer is cut off entirely. This grievance deſerves the attention of thoſe who have it in their power to remove it; and the means is very obvious, viz. the laying ſuch a conſiderable but equitable *duty* on the exportation of the Engliſh rock-ſalt as would bring the prices of the Iriſh and Britiſh ſalt to par: For, though every indulgence ought to be given to the ſiſter kingdom which her ſituation requires, it ſeems rather unreaſonable

unreaſonable to ſtretch this, ſo far as to hurt the manufactures and revenues of Britain.

Extent of the Coal Country of Scotland —Though the account of the coal has been extended, perhaps, too far, becauſe it is the moſt diſtinguiſhing feature in the ancient and preſent *ſtate* of this pariſh, yet I cannot conclude it without taking notice, that the Stevenſton mines are the northern limit of the coal country on the weſt coaſt of Scotland; as the Bargeny mines, near Girvan, are the ſouthern limit. North of Saltcoats there are no coal ſtrata * to be found, to the extremity of the iſland. South of Girvan, none, till you croſs the Solway Frith. There will be two *points*, correſponding to Saltcoats and Girvan, on the eaſt coaſt: And within theſe four *points* the coal country of Scotland ſtretches, nearly from the S. W. to the N. E. acroſs the iſland; in breadth between 30 and 40 miles †.

Ship-

* I ſay *ſtrata*. Some *veins* of coal, or of a finer ſimilar ſubſtance, from ſix inches to two feet thick, have been found in the iſland of Mull, at Caſtle-Leod, and perhaps other places in the Highlands, among veins of lead, between fiſſures of rocks, and under what has been (perhaps erroneouſly) taken for jointed lava or baſaltes. But theſe *coal veins* are ſo ſhort and inconſiderable, and the whole appearance of the metals, as they call them (the other ſubterraneous ſtrata), is ſo different from the appearance in a coal field, that the veins muſt be conſidered as ſingular phaenomena, which may, indeed, exerciſe the ingenuity of the naturaliſt, but upon which no ſolid practical concluſions as to the exiſtence of coal can be founded.

† The north line begins at Saltcoats, or rather at Campbelton (nearly S. W. of us), runs through the pariſhes of Dalry, Kilbirny, Lochwhinoch, Kilbarchan, croſſes the Clyde about four miles weſt of Glaſgow, paſſes through the eaſt corner of Dumbartonſhire, takes in (probably) all Stirlingſhire, Clackmannanſhire, paſſes through the middle of Fife, along the high country to the ſouth of the river Eden, and ends ſomewhere near Fifeneſs. The ſouth line begins near Girvan, goes on to Demellington,

Ship-Building.—The ſpirited and ſucceſsful exertions in the coal branch which have been deſcribed, the circulation of Iriſh gold, and the animating example of Mr Cunningham, gave a new ſpur to the induſtry and improvement of the pariſh. Other circumſtances concurred; ſuch as the American war. The Saltcoats people, finding an increaſing demand for ſhips, which they could not build in America, nor buy at that time in Britain but at a high price, were naturally led to attempt to build them themſelves, their harbour being remarkably convenient for launching them. Accordingly, they began to import ſhip timber from South Wales; and in a place where ſcarcely a boat had been built before, three carpenters yards were ſet up one after another, which have gone on ſucceſsfully ever ſince. In theſe yards there have been built, from the year 1775 to the 1790,

No. of Veſſels.	*Tons.*
6 ſhips, from 160 to 220 tons -	1155
37 brigs, from 55 to 180 tons - -	4630
18 ſloops, from 20 to 85 tons - -	1085
3 ſmall veſſels at preſent on the ſtocks	225
Total 64 veſſels.	7095

Value

Demellington, Sanquhar, Muirkirk, Liſmahagoe. It cannot be traced farther, from the accounts of the miners. It ends, probably, near North-Berwick. More light will be thrown upon the ſubject, from the Statiſtical Reports of the different pariſhes when they are completed. The coal country in the north of England, from Whitehaven to Newcaſtle, is probably of a greater breadth than the Scottiſh, and ſeems to run acroſs the iſland in a ſimilar direction. There is alſo coal in the ſouth-weſt of England, from Somerſetſhire to North Wales; but is is probably inſulated, or in patches; at leaſt, this is the caſe with two great beds of it, one in Colbrook-vale, at the Iron-bridge, in the north of Shropſhire, and another in the ſouth of Staffordſhire, which have no connection with one another, or with the reſt of the mines. It would be well worth while to trace the extent of this valuable mineral throughout the whole iſland.

Value of the above from the carpenter's hands,
at the low rate of 5 l. *per* ton - - L. 35,475
Value of the iron, the maſts, yards, rigging,
ſails, &c. - - - As much more.

All theſe veſſels do not belong to the port of Saltcoats. Several of them were built by commiſſion for other ports; and ſome of the largeſt of them were afterwards profitably ſold by their owners, in England, Ireland, and Spain. The three carpenters yards generally employ 60 men. There are not ſo many at work at preſent, as the demand is leſs than formerly. One of the maſters is about to remove to Belfaſt, but will ſoon be ſucceeded by another.

Other Branches of Manufacture.—About the ſame time a rope-yard was eſtabliſhed, which conſtantly employs, at an average, 25 men, and works up annually a cargo or more of hemp, imported in a large brig from Peterſburgh and Riga. The eſtabliſhing a manufactory for working ſail-cloth at Saltcoats, has been thought of; but there is not ſufficient encouragement as yet for carrying this ſcheme into execution. Three or four men are employed at the rope-yard in making (ſewing) ſails. Some time after, a conſiderable brewery was built near Saltcoats, which continues to ſupply the towns and the country for ſeveral miles round with ſmall-beer. A diſtillery was ſet on foot about five years ago, which, while it continued, conſumed weekly a very great quantity of bear and barley; but when the duty on licenſed ſtills was doubled, the proprietors found themſelves obliged to give it up.

Trade and Shipping of Saltcoats.—The exports from Saltcoats, beſides the coal and ſalt, are only a few herrings, with ſome

ſome bales of the Paiſley ſilk and cotton manufactures, which go that way to Ireland. A conſiderable quantity of oats from the pariſh, is carried in boats every Spring to Arran and Kintyre for ſeed.

There is annually imported a cargo of hemp from Peterſburgh;
A cargo of iron from Gottenburgh;
Three cargoes of fir timber from Memel; and
As much ſhip timber from Wales as is needed.

The average of oats, oatmeal, and barley, for three years preceding January laſt, imported chiefly from Galloway, above 2000 bolls annually. From January to May 1791, imported about 3000 bolls. The Ayrſhire boll is exactly the Engliſh quarter. A little linen yarn, and ſome trifles of proviſion from Ireland, are all the other imports recollected.

During the Summers 1788, 1789, 1790, three veſſels, of about 100 tons each, were annually employed in the Newfoundland fiſhery. They were very ſucceſsful on the Banks, in getting as many fiſh as they could carry; but from ſome circumſtances and accidents, the ſales of their cargoes did not anſwer expectation, ſo that the adventurers have dropped this buſineſs at preſent.

For a conſiderable time backwards, Saltcoats veſſels have been employed in the Weſt herring fiſhery, to the number of 12 or 13 annually. This buſineſs is alſo on the decline, as there are now only about eight, and theſe have been unſucceſsful for the laſt three years. The buſſes from Campbelton and Roſa, have done better than the Saltcoats ones.

The

The reaſon of this may be, that the Saltcoats buſſes are too large, from 80 to 90 tons, navigated by 18 men. The expence of their maintenance for more than three months, and that of the nets, ſalt, &c. exhauſt all the profit of their ſmall cargoes, together with the bounty, now in part withdrawn; whereas the Highland buſſes are only from 60 to 65 tons, navigated by 10 or 11 men. But the principal reaſon may be, that the Highland ſailors and rowers are more expert at the buſineſs than ours.

Notwithſtanding theſe diſcouragements, the number and value of the veſſels belonging to the port have doubled within theſe laſt twelve years, and doubtleſs the trade increaſed in ſome proportion to this. The number at preſent is

18 veſſels below 100 tons
23 from 100 to 200 tons

Total veſſels 41, the regiſtered tonnage of which is about 4300 tons, navigated by above 320 men. About a dozen of the largeſt of theſe veſſels do not frequent their own incommodious port, but find employment, in the carrying trade, in the ports of Glaſgow, Liverpool, and London *.

Population

* The carrying trade has been greatly hurt by a late Regulation of the Congreſs, according to which, goods imported into America in *Britiſh* bottoms, pay conſiderably more duty than goods imported in *American* bottoms. The effect of this might be eaſily deſtroyed by a counter-regulation of the Britiſh government, to confine the benefit of their *debentures* entirely to goods exported from this iſland in Britiſh bottoms. Without ſome ſuch regulation, this kind of trade, ſo important to Britain in raiſing a nurſery of ſailors, is in ſome danger of being transferred to America, as our merchants already employ their ſhips, and let our's lie idle.

Population and Police of Saltcoats.

In the ſouth or Stevenſton ſide of the town there are

	Houſes.		*Perſons.*
	169	inhabited by	1131
Ardroſſan ſide -	230	—— ——	1194
Total houſes and inhabitants	399		2325

There are no magiſtrates, nor any local police in Saltcoats; only one inconſiderable annual fair; no market-place nor weekly markets; no tonnage paid by the veſſels. A ſhore-bailiff levies the ſmall anchorage dues, and carries into execution ſuch regulations as are neceſſary for the loading and ſailing of the veſſels; which regulations the owners or maſters come under a written obligation to ſubmit to. The Earl of Eglinton is proprietor, and receives rent for all the houſes on the Ardroſſan ſide, built by the poſſeſſors on longer or ſhorter tacks. His Lordſhip is alſo ſuperior of the Stevenſton ſide of the town, all the houſes, except a few, paying him a ſmall feu-duty.

Population of the Pariſh.—Annual average of the *Births* for the laſt 40 years.

Annual average from January 1. 1751 to January 1761 - -	54	
Ditto, from Jan. 1761 to Jan. 1771	between 53 and 54	
Ditto, from Jan. 1771 to 1781 -	55	
Ditto, from Jan. 1781 to 1791 -	94	

Annual average of the *Deaths* for the laſt 40 years.

Annual average from January 1. 1751 to January 1761 - - -	36

Ditto, from Jan. 1761 to Jan. 1771	between 35 and 36
Ditto, from Jan. 1771 to 1781 -	between 29 and 30
Ditto, from Jan. 1781 to 1791 -	46

Annual average of the *Marriages* for the laſt 40 years.

Annual average from January 1. 1751 to January 1761 - -	between 12 and 13
Ditto, from Jan. 1761 to Jan. 1771	between 11 and 12
Ditto, from Jan. 1771 to 1781 -	14
Ditto, from Jan. 1781 to 1791 -	18

The marriages comprehend thoſe only where the couple continued to reſide in the pariſh. Thoſe, where the bride left it, were purpoſely ſtruck off the liſts, to avoid confuſion with other pariſhes.

In anſwer to the queries, this abridgement from the pariſh regiſters has been given, but no calculations can be founded on the *deaths*, as many of the pariſhioners die at ſea, and in diſtant places of the world. The increaſing population of this pariſh is chiefly to be aſcribed to the influx of ſtrangers from other pariſhes into a place where they have a reaſonable proſpect of work and maintenance; and the *rate* of this will be beſt ſeen from the following facts.

It is certain, that the number of ſouls in Stevenſton pariſh in the year	1700	was below 400
No. when Dr Webſter's ſurvey was made in the - - - -	1755	1412
No. of ſouls from actual ſurveys in the year - - -	1760	1325
Ditto, in the year - -	1765	1431
Ditto, in the year - -	1783	1884
Ditto, in April - - -	1791	2425

In

In April 1791, there were in Saltcoats,

	Dwelling-houſes.	*Families.*	*Souls.*
	169	250	1131
In Stevenſton town -	174	234	1019
In the country, gentlemens, farmers, and miners houſes -	46	51	275
Total in the pariſh	389	535	2425

Of theſe 535 families, there are 506 *married* and widows, and only 29 heads of families *unmarried*, (of theſe about 20 females). The *children* under the age of ſeven are, in Saltcoats, very near a fifth part; in Stevenſton and the country, very near a fourth part of the whole inhabitants. All the individuals do not actually reſide in the pariſh; they have, however, no fixed houſe or reſidence but there.

Different Claſſes.—About ten years ago, a Relief Meeting-houſe was built near Saltcoats. There are about 80 families in this pariſh of that perſuaſion, 14 families of Burghers and Antiburghers, and a ſingle Cameronian. Three perſons in the pariſh were born in England, five or ſix in Ireland, and more than a half of the heads of families born in other diſtricts of Scotland. There are 20 families of farmers, and ſix or eight cottagers, or perſons in that ſtile, though they may hold their ſmall poſſeſſions from a proprietor. The number of thoſe individuals in the pariſh who are and have been ſailors cannot be aſcertained, probably between two and three hundred.

Employed

Employed about the coal, above	200	Taylors	10
Beſides theſe, there are 12 carters and 14 ſalters.		Carters and carriers in the two towns	16
Weavers, about	70	Butchers	5
Wrights	19	Bakers	3
Maſons	17	Servants houſehold, chiefly female, above	50
Smiths	8	Labouring men ſervants, about	24
Shoemakers	10		

There are none juſt now living in the pariſh who have attained to the age of 90; three or four very near it. *Two* died lately beyond that age, and *one* ſome time ago conſiderably beyond 100, viz. a Highlander, who had been at the battle of Killiekrankie.

Horſes, &c.—The number of horſes in the pariſh is 135; a good breed of milk cows, between the Engliſh and the country kind; no ſheep, except the few reared for the gentlemen's tables. There are at preſent three, generally four chaiſes, none for hire as yet, except during the ſea-bathing, and between 70 and 80 carts, taking in the whole pariſh. The canal has greatly diminiſhed their number.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 1206 l. Scotch. The real land rent (valuing the ground in the proprietors hands at a very moderate rent) may be about 1170 l. Sterling. The rent of the houſes in the two towns, from the increaſing demand for them, is higher than in moſt places of the kingdom. The beſt of the houſes, poſſeſſed by the owners themſelves, pay no rent; but, according to a calculation, which may be depended on, were the whole 169 houſes in Saltcoats

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let at the preſent high rate, they would give 800 l. Thoſe in Stevenſton (excluding the manſe, and a gentleman's houſe contiguous to it) 460 l.; in all 1260 l. annually.

Acres.—There are ſeven heritors or land proprietors. They all reſide in the pariſh except the Earl of Eglinton, whoſe property in it is but ſmall. Of the ſix reſiding heritors, three draw about five-ſixths of the rent. The arable or cultivated ground in the pariſh is now all incloſed; about 400 acres of it poſſeſſed by the proprietors; 20 farms, and about 100 acres in ſmall incloſures contiguous to the towns. Theſe may comprehend altogether near 1500 acres. About two thirds of this incloſed ground is in paſture or hay. The unincloſed and uncultivated ſandy ground has never been properly meaſured. It is viſibly larger in extent than the former, and may be ſomewhere between 1600 and 1800 acres. This extenſive track, however valuable from the coal in its bowels, yields nothing from the ſurface but a ſcanty proviſion during the ſummer to about 50 cows; beſides a rabbit-warren in the weſt quarter of it, out of which they kill annually near 300 dozen. The furs and the fleſh are in value about 10 s. the dozen.

Agriculture.—The ground in the incloſures contiguous to the town is generally let from 30 s. to 2 l. *per* acre. The average rent of the farms is juſt now about 13 s. an acre. This will riſe conſiderably at the expiration of the long and cheap leaſes of four of the largeſt farms. After that event, there will ſcarcely be an acre under a guinea, the uſual rate of the new tacks or leaſes at preſent. The farms are not large. At the end of the preſent tacks they will be ſtill ſmaller, the proprietors finding it their intereſt to ſubdivide them. By the late tacks, the farmers are bound to plow three

three years, and reſt ſix. But, if they chooſe to manure an incloſure every third year with a ſpecified quantity of dung, they may continue to plow it as long as they pleaſe. Of their own accord they lay down all the ground they reſt with graſs-ſeeds, chiefly rye-graſs, the ſeed of which they ſave themſelves, raiſing tolerable good crops of it on every kind of ground. The clovers, eſpecially the red, does not ſuit their particular kind of clay; not that it is too ſtrong, but there is ſomething in the ſoil adverſe to it, which no manure nor cultivation can conquer. On the loams, the gravelly, and even the pure ſandy ſoil, there are crops of graſſes raiſed abundantly rich and luxurious. The farmers pay their rents chiefly from the dairy. The turnip huſbandry is never attempted, for a reaſon eaſily gueſſed at.

Oats is the principal grain which they ſow. It covers, perhaps, three fourths of their plowed ground. On the reſt they have bear, or barley, and beans, ſown at the uſual times. For ten years paſt, the farmers and proprietors have begun to ſow a little wheat, under the diſadvantage of being obliged to carry it 14 and 18 miles to a market. This is in part removed, by wheat mills erected nearer them. In conſequence of the very ſuperior profit of this grain on our dry grounds, the wheat culture is increaſing every year. It is ſeldom or never ſown here after a thorough Summer fallow, but after a potatoe fallow, the rows of the potatoes four feet diſtant, the ſpaces between them plowed four or five times, from the beginning of June to the beginning or middle of Auguſt, when the rows become luxuriant, and begin to unite. This, beſides the preparatory plowings and dreſſing of the ground in the Spring. They uſe, for fallowing and planting the potatoes, a ſmall plough of the Scotch form, drawn by a ſingle horſe. Another practice they have very lately learned, which

which deſerves attention and imitation. They break up the oldeſt, the richeſt, and dryeſt of their *leys* with a ſingle tilth, and immediately ſow wheat upon it. They endeavour to plough deep, and to lay the ridges turned up by the plough as cloſe as poſſible, to prevent the growth of the under graſs during the Winter, which, however, ſeldom diſturbs the crop. The ground is generally dreſſed with lime or dung, about a month or ſo before; but if the ley be old and rich, they reſerve the manure for the ſubſequent crops. A crop of oats, in a wet ſeaſon, would lodge on ſuch ground: The wheat runs little hazard. This ley-wheat is ſown in the beginning of September; that on the potatoe fallow in the end of October, ſometimes in the middle and towards the end of November. There is never any ſeverity of Winter here to hurt it *.

Manufactures.

* The following ſteep is generally uſed before ſowing, and it effectually prevents the ſmutt in wheat. Diſſolve, in a quantity of water ſufficient to cover the ſeed, as much common ſalt as will bring the pickle to ſuch a ſtrength that an egg will ſwim on it. Pour in the wheat very ſlowly and gradually, ſtirring it in the mean time ſtrongly and inceſſantly, and carefully ſkimming off all the light grain that riſes to the ſurface. Let the wheat, thus purified, lie under the pickle about thirty-ſix hours; then take it out of the hogſhead in ſmall quantities, ſpreading it in very thin layers on the floor (before a fire, if convenient), and ſifting on every layer as much quicklime as will dry or cruſt the drenched wheat, in ſuch a manner that every grain can be eaſily ſeparated and ſown with the hand. Sow it immediately, if the weather will permit; if not, it will ſuffer nothing by lying for a few days in that ſtate.

A reſpectable Engliſh agricultural writer has lately denied the efficacy of ſalt, or any other ſteep, to prevent ſmutt in wheat. Without conjecturing on different ſoils, and ſeed, and modes of preparation, I ſhall only ſay, that after more than 20 years trial of this ſteep, I never ſaw any ſmutt in the very ſmall quantity of wheat I raiſe annually. On the other hand, I never examined a field where it was neglected without finding ſome; a rare ear or too, perhaps, the firſt year, but abundance

the

Manufactures.—There was formerly a great deal of thin narrow linen, from 10 d. to 1 s. 1 d. a yard, made in this pariſh the next. From motives of frugality, we diſſolve dirty ſalt (the ſweepings of the garnels, bought at a low price) in *ſea water*. But I ſhould hardly think this circumſtance could make any difference.

A vaſt quantity of potatoes is raiſed in this pariſh, not only by the farmers, but every family in the towns have a patch of them, which they plant and dreſs themſelves, in the neighbouring incloſures, if they can procure ground, if not, they go to a conſiderable diſtance. This not only makes a principal article of family proviſion, but is uſed here for feeding ſwine, horſes, and eſpecially milk cows.

The price of many articles of *proviſion* is lower, and that of *labour* higher here, than in many other diſtricts of Scotland. The firſt is the conſequence of plenty, joined with our diſtance from the great markets of Glaſgow, Paiſley, and Greenock. The laſt is the conſequence of the increaſing demand for labour. Eggs are from 3 d. to 4 d. *per* dozen; beef, and all butcher-meat, from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* lib.; pork ſomewhat dearer; butter from 7 d. to 10 d. the lib.; the Ayrſhire pound is 24 ounces, or 1½ pounds Engliſh; honey at 6 s. the Scotch pint, *i. e.* 5 pounds Engliſh; ſalmon, except at an early ſeaſon, 3 d. the Engliſh pound. The price of moſt of theſe articles, and alſo of cheeſe and coals, has riſen, within theſe laſt 20 years, about a third part. The price of eggs, butter, and alſo of horſes, has doubled; and that of ſalmon, in conſequence of an eaſier carriage from Ayr to Edinburgh, tripled.

The wages of the coal-hewers, or miners, are from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. a day; but they never work above five days in the week. The coal is now ſo well aſcertained, that it is lately let by the piece at one of the collieries, much to the advantage both of maſter and workmen. Long before the late act of Parliament, the coal-hewers and their children in this diſtrict, were ſet free from their ancient ſervitude, by a voluntary deed of their maſter; and this much more effectually than that act of Parliament did. They are here quite on the ſame footing with all other workmen. The wages of the carpenters are 2 s. a day: Thoſe of maſons now riſen to half a guinea and 11 s. a week, beſides ſharpening their tools. Wrights, 10 s. a week. Common labourers, 1 s. in Winter, 1 s. 2 d. often, 1 s. 4 d. in Spring and Harveſt. Wages of houſe maid-ſervants, 3 l. a year and upwards; and of a labouring man-ſervant, not living in the

pariſh and neighbourhood, bleached by private families, ſold at the fairs in the beginning of Auguſt, and ſent to England, where it was chiefly ſtamped for handkerchiefs; but for a number of years paſt the demand for it has gradually declined, perhaps from their making it too ſlight. Still a little coarſe linen is made for the market, beſides the demand for the pariſh wear; and they are improving the texture of it. But above 45 of the weavers are now employed by the Paiſley manufacturers in the ſilk, beſides a few in the cotton branches. A number of young girls are employed alſo by them and the Glaſgow manufacturers, in flowering and tambour work. Within theſe few weeks, the *Jeanies* have been introduced, and will give employment to boys and girls in ſpinning cotton. There is a bleachfield in Stevenſton town, which has ſufficient buſineſs from the pariſh and neighbourhood, bleaching between 8000 and 9000 yards yearly. The nets for the herring buſſes are weaved by the Saltcoats children.

Stipend, School, and Poor.—The ſtipend, being moſtly victual, is variable. The whole living, including the glebe, may be at an average about 96l. yearly. Meſſrs Alexander Hamilton of Grange, and Cunningham of Sea-bank, are vice-patrons.

the houſe, in money, meal, milk, and potatoes, about fourteen guineas yearly. This laſt is a general anſwer to the 3d page of the queries, becauſe the families of theſe labouring ſervauts live almoſt as well as any other common labourers. The earnings of their wives and children, muſt ever depend upon their turn for induſtry. Seldom, very ſeldom, is it in the power of an induſtrious mother of three or four young children, to earn, by ſpinning even fine linen yarn, more than 1 s. 8 d. a week. The poor families of Highlanders in Saltcoats, can live upon much leſs than the natives of the place, and ſeldom apply to the poor's funds.

patrons. The former has the next vice. The manſe, after undergoing ſeveral expenſive reparations, was at laſt pulled down, and rebuilt about four years ago, and is now a very good one. It is above 120 years ſince the church was built. A large aile was added to it by the Saltcoats people, about 48 years ago. The ſchool-houſe is an old and inconvenient one, and muſt be rebuilt immediately. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is ſcarcely 5 l. yearly, and ought to be augmented. His ſcholars are not numerous in proportion to the pariſh, only about 50; but there are two, and ſometimes three other ſchools.

The poor are ſufficiently numerous in this populous pariſh. The funds for their ſupply are under the management of the miniſter and kirk ſeſſion, who lay their accounts once a year before the principal heritors. There are from 9 to 12 penſioners on the liſt, who receive from 6 d. to 1 s. 6 d. weekly; and between 30 and 40 more who receive ſupply occaſionally. Above 7 l. is paid annually for houſe-rents to the poor; 4 l. for the education of poor children, who are taught in the different ſchools at a lower price than the other children; and a ſmall ſum annually for medicines to the ſick. The whole annual diſburſements amount to 64 l. 8 s. at an average for 10 years back. The fund which chiefly ſupplies this expence, is the collections at the church, amounting, at the ſame average, to 50 l. 10 s.; which, with the other ſmaller funds belonging to the poor, give the ſum of 70 l. annually. There is a charitable ſociety in the pariſh, and two boxes belonging to the coal-hewers and the ſailors, which give a little aſſiſtance in this humane work, independent of the ſeſſion; not to mention the private charity of the better ſort, which, in a pariſh circumſtanced like this, is very conſiderable and commendable, becauſe the higheſt of them are well

well acquainted with the ſituation of the poor, and intereſt themſelves in it.

From tacks of three of the beſt farms in the pariſh, written more than 80 years ago, and ſtill extant, it appears, that the rent of theſe farms at that time, and probably of all the reſt, was about a ſixth part of their preſent rent.

Morals, Manners, and Turn of the People.—The writer of this, during a reſidence of more than 30 years, has had the ſatisfaction of obſerving a gradual, yet a very ſtriking change on the face of the pariſh, by canals, and other efforts, which have increaſed the mining, trade, and ſhipping; by good roads, convenient bridges, well built houſes, both in the towns and country; the whole upper pariſh, almoſt open, now properly incloſed; a better mode of culture eaſily introduced, and willingly followed by the children of the old farmers. Theſe things have improved the ſituation of the inhabitants, with reſpect to moſt of the conveniencies and comforts of life; and they have been projected and executed by many different ſorts of perſons concerned in them, not only with a judicious and proper regard to their own intereſt, but with a liberal and laudable public ſpirit. He moſt ſincerely wiſhes that it was in his power to give the ſame favourable teſtimony of their improvement in a higher ſcale—he means that of their minds and morals. But the conſtant influx of unknown perſons from diſtant pariſhes, leſs under the reſtraints either of religion or character than the native inhabitants, is an unfavourable circumſtance in the way of example. The manner of life both of the ſailors and miners, furniſhes ſome temptation to drunkenneſs and intemperance, and leads on to habits of theſe vices. The high wages of the miners, earned by diſagreeable and ſevere labour, are too often immediately diſſipated;

diſſipated; little laid up for the maintenance of their families, whoſe education is too much neglected. This, however, is with the exception of ſeveral individuals. The temptation is much increaſed by the cheapneſs of ſpirituous liquors, and the number of inns, and houſes for ſelling ſpirits. Of theſe there are no leſs than 18 in Stevenſton town, and 16 in Saltcoats, 34 in the whole pariſh; an evil which ought to be ſomehow checked by a better police; for it certainly has very melancholy conſequences on the health, the induſtry, and the morals of the people. It ſoon renders them weak and crazy, turbulent and riotous, idle and worthleſs. It opens a door to pilfering, and all other vices connected with idleneſs.

Happily the diſorder here is as yet confined to the very loweſt claſs. The generality of the people are fully as ſober, and perhaps more intelligent, as well as more induſtrious, than they were 30 years ago; and having employment enough, they are in a reaſonable degree eaſy and happy in their preſent ſituation; while ſeveral of them are very ingenious in diſcovering, and attentive in improving the means in their power to better it. The luxury and profligacy of the great towns have not yet reached them. The fortunes of the better ſort are ſmall, indeed, but gradually increaſing by frugality. The ſituation of the greateſt part of the pariſhioners, with their habits of education, naturally create a prejudice in favour of the ſea-faring life, and cheriſh, in young minds, the ſpirit of adventure. Numbers of them never return home, but marry, and ſettle in various places of the world. By far the greateſt part of thoſe who do return, behave decently in their families, and appear leſs infected with the vices of foreign countries than the generality of that claſs of men. During the American war, it was computed that about

about 200 Saltcoats ſailors (including the whole town) were on board the navy; one in the rank of a captain, three lieutenants, and above a dozen inferior officers in the fleet.

Hints for the Improvement of the Pariſh.—The raiſing coals from a depth of more than 50 fathoms, by double horſe gins, is very expenſive. There is a ſmall neat ſteam engine in the pariſh of Gorbals, a mile ſouth of Glaſgow, which, under the management of a ſingle man, performs the gin-work in half the time, and with much greater effect than any horſe gin; raiſing large baſkets full of coals alternately, from a depth of about 60 fathoms. At the ſinking of a new dip-pit, this improvement may be worthy of the attention of our people, and, probably, many other improvements which the inventive genius of the preſent age may produce. Perhaps an able mechanic might, with little expence, combine the Gorbals machinery, which is very ſimple, with the machinery of *every* engine-pit, *i. e.* make a part of the water raiſed by the pumps to raiſe the coal at the ſame time. If this be impracticable, the hint will be forgiven from one who pretends to no ſkill in mechanics.

It is very practicable to bring a part of the unincloſed 1700 acres of ſandy ground in this pariſh into good culture and paſture; it would, indeed, require a great ſum to be expended in incloſing, levelling, and manuring, but would in the end refund the expence many fold. Three or four of the farms, and part of the parks of the two proprietors, are already on the ſkirts of that ground. The ſoil, though pure ſand, is very kindly, more fit for the graſs-huſbandry than the clay ſoil; more fit for potatoes than any ſoil whatſoever. The looſeſt of the ſand makes excellent garden ground. It will bear good wheat, which has been raiſed on an acre of it in the glebe, and ſeveral acres

of

of it in the incloſures near Saltcoats. As to the levelling.—Theſe Saltcoats incloſures were feued out, 15 years ago, in a ſtate perfectly uſeleſs to the eye, full of large hills or mounds of ſand. Theſe the feuers annihilated in a few weeks, without almoſt either labour or expence. After any heavy rain, they led the ſcattered water, which drilled over from the higher grounds into a ſingle very ſmall ſtream. This they directed againſt the middle of one of the ſand hills, which was gradually and ſoon undermined, of whatever height or bulk it might be. Thus reducing them one after another, they brought the whole incloſure to a dead level. The ſand hills, indeed, at a greater diſtance from the higher grounds, cannot be ſo eaſily ſubjected to this operation; but there are acres and hundreds of acres which would need little levelling or ſmoothing *.

Enlargement of the Harbour of Saltcoats.—The laſt thing deſerving

* As there is ſcarcely any ſea-weed on the ſhore, the great difficulty would be to find manure ſufficient to raiſe one ſingle good graſs crop, to bind the ſurface by the net-work of its roots, after which the ground would be gained. Lime, tho' beneficial, does not anſwer ſo well as dung, eſpecially cow-dung. A village of manufacturers, enticed by cheap fuel, and a very low rent or feu-duty, each family ſet down by itſelf, (as all manufacturers ought to be), with ſmall incloſures of three or four acres behind the houſes, would ſoon, by means of their cows and potatoes, make their ſmall incloſures as valuable as the Saltcoats ones. The reſt, and by much the greateſt part of the track, could not be brought into culture without much expence. But, as it is already incloſed in part, by the canal and its various branches, it might be planted with trees of different kinds beſt ſuited to the ſoil, eſpecially the pine or fir kinds; and, though the ſea air and ſtorms would undoubtedly deſtroy a ſmall part of the young trees moſt expoſed to this danger, yet the reſt would ſoon riſe under the ſhelter of one another, favoured by the great inequality of that part of the ground, and, in proper time, turn this dreary, bare, barren waſte, into a comfortable, extenſive, and valuable plantation.

ſerving attention is the enlargement of Saltcoats Harbour. Though the firſt building of it, 90 years ago, was a great effort for a private gentlemen, it does not now ſuit the improved ſtate of the trade and ſhipping. It conſiſts of a quay, all of ſtone, about 24 feet thick, large hewn ſtones on each ſide, and an outer wall to ſhelter the ſhips, of a conſiderable height. This building runs along a natural ridge of rocks, in a ſtraight line from N. E. to S. W. five hundred feet. At the S. W. end, it turns at a right angle, and runs through the ſea, more than a hundred and ſixty feet, forming a pier which points nearly north. Within this rectangular ſpace is the preſent harbour, capable of containing 24 veſſels, having a proper clay bottom, dry at low water, and from 10 to 12 feet deep at ſpring tides, admitting veſſels of 200 tons. But, as only two large, and three ſmaller veſſels can be loaded at a time, and the large ones muſt be hauled down to the very end or point of the pier, before they can complete their loading, and muſt ſail too, at a ſpring-tide, in order to make room for the loading of the reſt. This delay is a very great inconvenience in the coal trade.

To remove which, it is propoſed to carry forward the firſt deſcribed line of quay two hundred and fifty feet beyond the pier, onwards to the S. W. along the ſame line of natural rocks, which ſtill continues. Then, to turn it through the ſea, northward and eaſtward with a ſingle obtuſe angle, till it comes ſo near the point of the pier as to leave room for ſhips to enter. This would form an *outer* harbour capable of containing 14 veſſels more, in water from 15 to 16 feet, and much more commodious than the preſent one. For the preſent pier (ſtripped of its outer wall) would ſtand as a tongue or middle quay between them, from which veſſels could take in their loading on each ſide; the largeſt always lying

lying in the outer harbour, which would admit ſhips of 300 tons. Every perſon may conceive in a moment of what advantage this would be to the trade of Saltcoats, where the veſſels *now* frequently lie for ſeveral weeks before they can receive their loading; while, in the mean time, perhaps the price of coals is high at Dublin, and an Engliſh fleet of colliers arrives there before them, and brings down the price three or four ſhillings a ton. The public benefit alſo would be very conſiderable to the Glaſgow ſhips, and to all other ſhips checked within the bay, as they ſometimes are, by weſterly ſtorms. They would then have a better place of ſhelter to run into than under the Lady Iſle, deſcribed page 3. and at times, too, when perhaps, from the courſe of the winds, that Iſle was inacceſſible to them.

Of late, a more than uſual attention and ardour has been raiſed about this object, partly owing to the ſtatiſtical inquiries now going forward. Within this fortnight, (26th May 1791), an accurate ſurvey has been taken, and plans and eſtimates drawn out, which ſtate the expence of this very important improvement at only about 2000l. Small as this ſum may appear, it will require the aſſiſtance of public ſpirited perſons. It is eſpecially worthy of the attention of the Earl of Eglinton, who has ſuch a particular connection with this riſing town. The line which divides the two pariſhes runs acroſs the preſent harbour from eaſt to weſt. On the north or Ardroſſan ſide, which is his Lordſhip's property, there is a ſheltered place for ſhips, nearly double the extent of both the inner and outer harbours which front it. The bottom of this ſpace is rocky; but, if it were deepened by raiſing the rock, which is free-ſtone, (and would be very uſeful in building the new harbour), and if a quay were carried out from the north ſide, till it ſhould come not far from the

point

point of the preſent pier, and the whole ſquare baſon completed, (which perhaps would not coſt above another 1000 l.), it would make one of the moſt convenient and ſpacious harbours in the kingdom.

In the above report, *miles* always mean Engliſh miles, and *acres* Scotch acres.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF ARDROSSAN.

(County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN DUNCAN.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish takes its name from a small promontory which terminates in a ridge of romantic rocks running into the sea, about a mile and a half from the town of Saltcoats. It probably obtained the well known prefix *Ard* from its conspicuous situation, having the sea on one side, and flat fields on the other; or from the rank of the ancient proprietors, who are said to have had extensive possessions in this country. It is situated about 18 statute miles from the town of Ayr, and six miles from Irvine. The different extensions and divisions of the parish are very irregular. The medium length, from north to south, is six miles or thereby; its greatest breadth about five, and its least does not exceed three miles.

Surface and Soil.—The surface of the parish is a mixture of hilly and flat country, in most places fit for the plough, in others only for pasture. Though more than nine-tenths of it be arable, and capable of high improvement, yet the far greater part even of the best lands remains in pasture. Betwixt

twixt the Caſtle of Ardroſſan and the limits of the pariſh, on the eaſt, is a beautiful inclined plain, moſtly of very good ground. Towards the weſt, the hills are nearer the ſea. About two miles from the coaſt, a ridge of ſmall hills bound the proſpect. The tops of ſome of them are planted with large clumps of foreſt trees, which have a very pleaſing effect. Beyond theſe the ſurface is irregular; in ſome places coarſe and marſhy; in others dry, fruitful, and pleaſant. The ſoil is various. Betwixt the point of Ardroſſan and town of Saltcoats, graſs and clover grow ſpontaneouſly within a very little of flood-mark. The ſand is ſoon ſucceeded by a thin layer of earth, on a pebbley bottom. A little farther from the ſhore, it is moſtly a loamy earth, with a mixture of ſand. On the north-eaſt and north ſides of the pariſh, the ſoil is, in general, a ſtrong deep clay, capable of bearing great crops when well drained and manured, but apt to produce only bent and other coarſe graſs where it is neglected.

Agriculture.—Though the ſoil of this pariſh be, in general, capable of very high improvement; yet, in many places, the ſtate of agriculture, compared with that of other pariſhes in the ſame country, is much behind. Its preſent ſtate, however, compared with that in the remembrance of ſome old men, ſhows that the farmers have not been altogether idle or ignorant. Forty, even thirty years ago, the land was almoſt in a ſtate of nature, very low rented, and the pariſh almoſt deſtitute of incloſures. At that time farmers had very few inducements to ingenuity and activity. Towns and villages in the neighbourhood were very ſmall, compared to what they are at preſent; conſequently, the conſumpt of the produce much leſs, and the price of vivres not above the half, in many inſtances not above the third of what they now bring.

Low

Low as theſe were, Ireland was able often to underſell them in the common neceſſaries of life, meal, butter, cheeſe, butcher meat, biſcuit, &c.

Roads, &c.—Beſides the want of incloſures, the want of roads may be juſtly reckoned a great bar to improvements of every kind. It was not till the year 1779 that a turnpike-road was in the whole pariſh. At preſent, all theſe put together do not much exceed five miles. The other roads to church and market, to lime and coal, in the winter, and even in a wet ſummer, are almoſt impaſſable. Beſides, ſo long as the preſent ſyſtem of farming was unknown or diſcredited in this country, labour in the fields was conſidered as mere drudgery, ſcarcely fit to procure a decent ſubſiſtence. The ſons of farmers, rather than follow the profeſſion of their forefathers, chooſe to be bred to the ſea; and the ſucceſs of a few fortunate adventurers was ſufficient to draw numbers to that line. Their parents were not averſe to the choice. Hearing of riſe of the rents in their neighbourhood, dreading the ſame riſe in their own farms, and inſenſible to the advantages ariſing from new improvements, they looked upon bankruptcy and beggary as the certain conſequences of continuing farmers. Such are the probable cauſes why the ſtate of agriculture is ſo much behind in this pariſh. But, of late years, matters in this reſpect have taken a very favourable turn, owing, in a great meaſure, to the laudable example of the reſiding heritors, gentlemen, and clergy in the neighbourhood, and a few ſpirited individuals who have made farming their ſtudy. Not only the incloſures about the town of Saltcoats, but ſome farms in the pariſh, are making rapid progreſs to a high ſtate of improvement. In providing the means, Nature has indeed been very liberal. The ſhore abounds with ſea-weed, a manure of the beſt kind for the adjacent

adjacent ſoil, particularly for raiſing barley crops. The interior part of the pariſh has, in many places, great abundance of lime and coal, which is wrought at a moderate rate. With ſuch advantages, and a ſpirit of ingenuity and application, which is daily gaining ground, there is every reaſon to hope for a vaſt increaſe to the farmer, the proprietor, and the public.

Patron, Heritors.—The Earl of Eglintoune is patron and proprietor of far the greateſt part of the pariſh. The valuation of the whole amounts to 2970 l. of which his Lordſhip's property makes 2014 l. 10 s. The remaining part of the pariſh belongs to four reſiding, and three non-reſiding heritors.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The living has never been augmented ſince 1650, but, on the contrary, has ſuffered ſeveral dilapidations. It is, *communibus annis*, about 75 l. Sterling, excluſive of manſe and glebe. The pariſh-church is a neat, plain edifice, well finiſhed, and large. It is ſituated in the weſt end of the town of Saltcoats. The preſent manſe is in a ruinous ſtate, but a plan is agreed on for a new one, to be built ſoon. The glebe and garden contain five acres one rood of good ground.

School.—The annual ſalary paid to the ſchoolmaſter by the pariſh is 61. 3 s. 4 d. Sterling. His other emoluments and fees are very low. Forty-two years ago, however, the preſent incumbent accepted this office, after having received a college education, capable of teaching the languages, and the practical parts of geometry, trigonometry, and navigation, in the laſt of which he has been very ſucceſsful. It is much to be regretted, that pariſh ſchools muſt, in all probability, ſoon be

be occupied by men of no literature, and that an advantage which Scotland has long had over all other nations ſhould be allowed to dwindle away for want of ſupport. The pariſh ſchool-houſe of Ardroſſan is almoſt in ruins, but about to be rebuilt. It was the gift of the late Earl of Eglintoune, with a garden to the maſter.

Population.—The country part of the pariſh, eſpecially towards the coaſt, is thinly inhabited. Farms of conſiderable extent are only uſed for paſture, and ſome of them rented by perſons who reſide at a diſtance. The farm-houſes which are inhabited amount to 31, (beſides 2 or 3 that are uninhabited). Theſe are occupied by 219 perſons, old and young, viz. 31 fathers, heads of families, 29 wives and widows, 23 ſons above the age of 16 years, 24 below that age, 27 daughters above the age of 16 years, 26 below that age, 31 male, and 28 female ſervants of different ages. There are beſides, in the country part of the pariſh, a few ſubtenants, herds, and cottagers, whoſe families amount to 105 perſons, viz. 20 fathers, heads of families, 23 wives and widows, 4 ſons above the age of 16 years, 20 below that age, 13 daughters above 16 years, 22 below that age, beſides 3 female ſervants. Total amount of the country part of the pariſh, 324 perſons, old and young.

Saltcoats.—On that part of the town of Saltcoats which ſtands in the pariſh of Ardroſſan, there are 230 houſes, the annual rent of which is computed at 740 l. Theſe are occupied by 216 fathers, heads of families, 254 wives and widows, 150 ſons above the age of 16 years, 153 below that age, 176 daughters above the age of 16 years, 187 below that age, 24 journeymen and apprentices, who only occaſionally reſide in the pariſh, and 34 female ſervants, making in whole 1194 perſons.

perſons. This, added to the number in the country, makes the whole amount to 1518 perſons. The average number of births for 10 years is annually 37, deaths 38, marriages 14. Thoſe who are baptiſed by diſſenting miniſters, and thoſe who die at ſea, are not included. The number of diſſenters is uncertain.

Manners.—The inhabitants of Saltcoats are, in general, ſober and induſtrious. Perhaps no ſea-port town in Scotland is more ſo. In the whole pariſh of Ardroſſan there are only five public-houſes, moſt of which are indifferently frequented, and none licenſed to deal in foreign liquors. Drunken riots happen very rarely even among the lower orders of the people. In ſobriety and regularity, the better ſort are truly exemplary.

Trade.—The Ardroſſan ſide of the town of Saltcoats is chiefly inhabited by ſailors, ſhip-carpenters, and weavers *. Of the laſt, beſides thoſe employed in working the ſtaples of the country, near 90 are employed in the ſilk and cotton branches by the Glaſgow and Paiſley manufacturers. Theſe have not increaſed ſo much as was at firſt expected. They have all the inconveniencies of diſtance from the chief ſeats of manufacture: They are always the firſt who feel the diſadvantages ariſing from a ſtagnation of trade, and the laſt who are benefited by its revival. A few ſhoes are made here for exportation.

Antiquities.—Some hill tops in the pariſh are evidently artificial,

* For a more particular account of the trade of Saltcoats, ſee the ſtatiſtical account of Stevenſton by the Reverend Dr James Wodrow. In that pariſh the harbour, and nearly one half of the town are ſituated.

tificial, and very probably contain the remains of the chiefs who fell in battle at the time the Danes and Norwegians * afflicted

* Two hills are remarkable for a tradition in the country concerning them. The firſt is ſituated on the northern extremity of the pariſh, called Knockgeorgan. It is acceſſible only on one ſide; and, from its central ſituation, there is a moſt extenſive proſpect of the inland country, the Frith of Clyde, and Weſtern Iſles. The veſtiges of an ancient camp are very eaſily traced on this hill, particularly the ramparts and gateways, and in the middle an artificial mound, from whence in times of diſtreſs, or when a Daniſh fleet was ſeen advancing towards the ſhore, ſignals of alarm were made. The other is on the eaſtern extremity of the ſame ridge of hills, called Round-hill, the top of which is entirely a piece of art, 28 yards in length, and 18 yards broad, and ſeems to have been conſtructed for a ſimilar purpoſe with the former. From theſe two hills, by ſmoke in the day, and by flame in the night, ſignals were communicated from hill to hill till the whole inland country was alarmed. That hill tops, in convenient ſituations, were uſed for this purpoſe, is evident often from their names. For example, *Lowdown*, ſituated on the extremity of Ayrſhire to the eaſt, ſignifies *the hill of flame*. Betwixt Round-hill and Lowdown the country is almoſt a plain upwards of 20 miles. Not far from Round-hill is a ſmall farm, called Tower-lodge, where it is ſaid the centinel who had this charge conſtantly reſided. It was originally a gift of the Crown, and to this day pays no ceſs, teind, or any other public burden.

The Caſtle of Ardroſſan is of unknown antiquity, and ſeems, from what is ſtill ſtanding, to have been originally a huge building. Its walls were entire when Cromwell viſited this part of the country, and fixed his head quarters at the county town. That uſurper had rendered himſelf very unpopular by occupying the church of Ayr as an armoury; and, to conciliate the minds of the people to his meaſures, he beautified the town, by building the fort and parapet, which are yet ſtanding. For this purpoſe, he threw down the walls of the Caſtle of Ardroſſan, and carried the ſtones in boats over ſea, ſo little were quarries known in theſe days, in which the county of Ayr almoſt every where abounds! The Earl of Eglintoune at that time reſided in the ſmall iſland of Cumbray, and muſt have ſeen with much pain a place of ſuch ſtrength and beauty belonging to him laid in ruins. After the reſtoration, the fort of Ayr, and

flicted this coaſt with their ravages. From one of theſe mounds, on the top of a ſmall hill near Boydſton, bones were lately dug up.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—The wages given to domeſtic ſervants vary, according to their age, ſtrength, and abilities. A good plowman receives 4 l. Sterling; a boy capable of driving a plough or cart, a guinea; female ſervants from 15 s. to 35 s. for half a year's ſervice. A journeyman maſon receives 22 d. *per* day in Summer, 20 d. in Winter; a wright 1 s. 6 d.; a ſhip's carpenter 2 s.; common labourers from 16 d. to 1 s. a day. There being no market day, or market place, the ſupply and price of proviſions are variable. The prices are pretty much regulated by the next market town (Irvine), though in general higher. Great quantities of meal and oats are ſometimes imported from the coaſt of Galloway. This renders theſe commodities ſometimes cheaper here than in inland towns; but in years of ſcarcity, ſuch importation ceaſes, they muſt be dearer. In the Winter ſeaſon, rabbits are ſold without the ſkin at 7 d. a pair. It is ſingular, that in a country ſo populous and cloſe by the ſea, none think of making fiſhing a buſineſs, eſpecially as fiſh are to be found in great quantities on the coaſt of Arran, and could never fail of finding a ready market. The inhabitants of Ayr long laboured under the ſame inconveniency, till a colony of fiſhermen from the North ſettled in that place. In the courſe of a few years theſe have enriched themſelves, and continue to ſupply the town and neighbourhood of Ayr at a moderate rate. Saltcoats is a ſtill more likely place for a colony of the ſame profeſſion to ſucceed;

and ground about, were granted to this noble family in reward of their loyalty, and by way of compenſation for the demolition of the Caſtle of Ardroſſan.

for beſides that the country adjacent is equally, perhaps more populous, it is much nearer large towns and villages; Irvine, Stewartown, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch, Johnſton, Paiſley, &c.

Poor.—The number of poor have greatly increaſed of late years. They have as yet no other ſource of ſupply than voluntary contributions; and conſequently, the ſtock formerly made up of the overplus of this is rapidly upon the decline. In the year 1741, five ſtated penſioners received 5 s. *per* month, divided among them; in 1751, thirteen received 14 s. 2 d.; in 1761, twelve received 14 s. 11 d.; in 1771, eleven received 14 s. 6 d.; in 1781, eleven received 15 s. 6 d.; in 1791, the monthly penſions exceed in whole 50 s. Beſides the ſtated penſioners, ſome poor receive occaſionally ſmall ſums to aid them in paying houſe rents. Poor children are taught to read.

Improvements.—To render the trade of Saltcoats regular, permanent, and productive; to maintain good order and comfort to the inhabitants; and to invite ſtrangers to ſettle in a place ſo healthful and pleaſant, various improvements, of no very coſtly nature, are abſolutely neceſſary, and without which there is much reaſon to fear its decline. The preſent Harbour is by far too ſmall for the number of ſhips, and might at no great expence be made one of the beſt of its ſize in Britain *. There is no magiſtracy, or any eſtabliſhed police in Saltcoats, though the number of inhabitants exceeds 2200 perſons; and of conſequence, the virtuous and inoffenſive part of the community muſt frequently pocket injuries, becauſe their poverty puts it out of their power to ſeek redreſs in a diſtant and expenſive court. Vagrants and ſturdy

* See Statiſtical Account of Stevenſton.

ſturdy beggars may pilfer and oppreſs almoſt with impunity: in no place are they more clamorous and impertinent. Laſt winter, a murder was committed on the body of a poor young woman, who reſided in town. The horrid deed was perpetrated in the fields, at no great diſtance. After the diſcovery, the ſuppoſed murderer with the greateſt compoſure returned to town, where he lodged all night, and effected his eſcape next day, before the juſtices could poſſibly begin a precognition; and every attempt ſince that time to apprehend him has proved fruitleſs.

Were the town of Saltcoats and environs erected into a corporation, as Port-Glaſgow lately was, beſides the ſuppreſſion of ſmall crimes, it would no longer give ſhelter to great ones. Men of wealth, virtue, and ability would be happy to exert themſelves for the common good; the inhabitants in general would be taught to reſpect, and find themſelves happy, under lawful authority; and in proportion as the town increaſes in riches and population, it would alſo increaſe in virtue and reſpectability.

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF MINNIGAFF.

(Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Preſbytery of Wigton.—Synod of Galloway.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN GARLIES MAITLAND.

Name and Appearance.

MINNIGAFF, or Monnigaff, is ſaid to mean, in Gaelic, a ſtony muir, which is abundantly deſcriptive of the greater part of this pariſh. The country exhibits a very rugged appearance, being compoſed of rocky and heath covered hills, ſome of them of great height.

Length of the pariſh	24 miles.
Breadth, about	12 ditto.
Population in 1748,	828
——— in 1755,	1209
——— in 1792,	1420
Increaſe in 44 years	592

This increaſe is chiefly owing to the mines.

Average number of Chriſtenings	40 yearly.
Valued rent - -	L. 7586 : 10 Scots.
Real rent among nine heritors	L. 5925 Sterling.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—The climate in all the lower grounds is mild. The pariſh is ſeldom viſited with any epidemical diſeaſe.

diſeaſe. The ſmall-pox, indeed, is often attended with fatal effects in this neighbourhood, owing to the neglect of inoculation. Some unhappy ſcruples, flowing from a miſtaken religious principle, prevent the people from doing that duty to their children which Providence has pointed out by this important diſcovery. Inſtances of longevity are frequent in this pariſh. One man, ſtill alive, is ſaid to be 118 years of age. This, however, reſts chiefly on his own teſtimony, as no authentic record of his birth has ever been produced. His name is William Marſhall; he has the remains of an athletic frame. In his youth he was a ſoldier; he ſays he ſerved under King William in Ireland. If this was the caſe, he certainly does not exaggerate his age; but of this part of his hiſtory there is no better evidence than that of his age itſelf. That his age, however, is very great, there is this preſumptive proof, that none of the oldeſt people in the country have ever contradicted his aſſertion.

Rivers.—The only river of any conſequence is the Cree, which forms the boundary between this pariſh and Penninghame, and empties itſelf into Wigton Bay. This river is for ſome miles ſmall, and runs through a bleak and dreary country, but is ſoon conſiderably increaſed by ſeveral large ſtreams, which terminate in it. As ſoon as it has received this addition of waters, its appearance is changed in every reſpect. Inſtead of holding its courſe through rocks and muirs, it glides ſlowly and beautifully, for ſome miles, through a rich valley, abruptly bounded on each ſide by banks covered with wood. The river in this place is broad, and the whole forms a landſcape truly romantic and delightful.

But beauty is not the moſt valuable characteriſtic of the Cree; it mingles the uſeful with the agreeable. It is navi-

gable

gable for ſeveral miles up, which has been the ſource of all the agricultural improvements which have been made in this part of the country. It likewiſe produces excellent fiſh of different kinds; but the beſt and moſt abundant ſpecies is the ſalmon. Theſe are found in conſiderable quantities. Even in the beginning of the ſeaſon, when ſalmon are eſteemed a rarity, they are ſold at two-pence *per* pound; and, during the whole ſeaſon, the price never varies.

The ſmelt or ſparling, a very rare fiſh, is alſo found in the Cree. It is found only in one other river in Scotland, viz. the Forth at Stirling. It makes its appearance only during a few days in March, at which time they are caught in great quantities. They both taſte and ſmell ſtrongly of ruſhes; and this flavour, although uncommon, is to moſt people agreeable.

Mountains and Mines.—It has been already obſerved, that this pariſh contains ſeveral mountains, ſome of which are higher than any in the ſouth of Scotland. Cairnſmuir is 1737 feet above the level of the ſea; and there are one or two more which are 20 or 30 feet higher; but, ariſing from a more elevated baſe, their altitude is not ſo ſtriking. There are many others of a leſs conſiderable height.—Theſe mountains, though apparently barren, are not unproductive. Large quantities of lead have been dug from their bowels. The military road from London to Dublin paſſes through this pariſh for ſeveral miles. It was in making this road, in the year 1763, that a piece of lead-ore was accidentally diſcovered by a ſoldier, who was at work. This important diſcovery was firſt made in the property of Mr Heron of Heron. It produced, at one time, about

bout 400 ton of ore *per annum* to Mr Heron, and thoſe who vere in company with him. At preſent, it yields them only bout 30. It was found that the veins, leaving Mr Heron's ands, went into thoſe of Mr Dunbar of Machermore; and here it is at preſent ſucceſsfully wrought. Some years it roduces from four to five hundred tons of ore. The ore, hen ſmelted, yields, for every three tons, two of lead. It rings at market 18 l. *per* ton when ſmelted, and 8 l. in ore. t has been aſſayed, but will not bear the expence of extrac- ing the ſilver. It is not carried above a mile by land till hey put it on board ſmall veſſels; and then they generally arry it to Cheſter, to which place they can run, with a fair ind, in 18 or 20 hours.

Woods.—But lead is not the only production of our hills. Some of them, eſpecially thoſe in the vicinity of the Cree, re covered with uſeful wood. There is no land in the pa- iſh more productive than that which is employed in this manner. The greater part of this belongs to the Earl of Galloway, who lately ſold the cutting of his woods for 6000 uineas, although the trees were then only from 25 to 30 ears old. The wood is moſtly *charred*, except a very ſmall uantity which is uſed in the neighbourhood for domeſtic urpoſes. Beſides Lord Galloway's, there is a good deal of ther wood in the pariſh; but its value has not been ſo well ſcertained. In all theſe woods, the moſt predominant ſpe- ies of trees are the oak and the aſh.

Sheep, Black Cattle, Horſes, &c.—Sheep are certainly the ſtaple commodity of this pariſh. It is believed that their number is not leſs than *thirty thouſand*. Although, from the hyneſs of the farmers to give an exact account of their ſtock, the information on this ſubject cannot be perfectly accurate, yet

yet it is certain that this ſtatement is not extravagant. But, although ſheep are evidently an object of ſo much importance to the farmer, yet little regard has been hitherto paid to the improvement of the breed. Indeed, no experiment has ever been made for this purpoſe. They have been contented with the breed which they found upon the grounds, which is certainly far from being good. They are of a ſmall ſpecies, with black face and legs, and covered with wool of a very inferior quality. They are generally ſold at three years old, at which age they are, at an average, worth 12 l. *per* ſcore. They then weigh, if ſlaughtered, 12 pounds *per* quarter. The wool ſells for 9 s. a ſtone; and it commonly requires ſeven or eight fleeces to the ſtone. The ſheep are, I believe, univerſally *laid*, which, although prejudicial to the quality of wool, is deemed a neceſſary precaution againſt the inclemency of winter.

Beſides ſheep, there are a conſiderable quantity of black cattle bred in the pariſh. Theſe have all the advantages common to Galloway cattle, which are well known to be remarkably handſome. They are ſhort legged, deep in the rib, broad over the loins, and, in general, without horns. They weigh remarkably well to their apparent bulk. The bullocks and heifers bred in this pariſh are ſold at three and four years old, when they are ſent to the Engliſh markets, where they bring an excellent price.

There are few horſes bred for ſale. In the upper part of the pariſh, there are ſtill ſome remains of the true Galloway breed, which, although ſmall, are remarkable for figure, ſpirit, and durability. They are the ſame with the Corniſh, the Welſh, and Hebridian ponies, and are the ancient Britiſh breed. In the lower parts of the pariſh, where horſes are

more

more wanted for the purpoſes of agriculture, they generally uſe good middle ſized draught horſes.

There are alſo bred in the pariſh ſome goats, which are ſuppoſed to anſwer better than ſheep on the exceſſively rugged grounds which are frequently to be met with. Their number is not very great. They are worth 7l. or 8l. *per* ſcore.

Rent, Soil, Crops.—The rent of land varies aſtoniſhingly in different parts of the pariſh. In ſome places it is let not by the acre, but by the mile, one farm containing ſeveral in extent each way. In the ſouthern part of the pariſh, arable land brings from 20s. to 30s. *per* acre. The ſoil is ſuch as might be expected from the appearance of the country. Barrenneſs is certainly its moſt ſtriking characteriſtic. There is, however, a ſmall ſtripe of land lying along the Cree, which is abundantly fertile. The ſoil of this is light and ſhallow, but kindly, and, in wet ſeaſons, produces excellent crops. The part of this tract which lies neareſt Wigton Bay is of a different quality, being a deep clay, and in ſome places covered with moſs. This is not unfertile. The crops raiſed are oats, barley, rye, wheat, potatoes, and turnip. What number of acres are reſpectively occupied by each of theſe cannot eaſily be determined. By far the greateſt number is employed in raiſing oats; and, next to them, in barley or bear. Wheat and turnips are not cultivated to any extent, and have been tried rather as experiments, than as forming a part of the general plan of huſbandry. Theſe experiments have been ſucceſsful. The whole grain produced in the pariſh does no more than ſupply the inhabitants.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—The inhabitants of Gal-

loway have hitherto enjoyed, in a very great degree, the valuable bleſſing of peace and unanimity in their religious ſentiments. Diſſenſion of any kind has been leſs known than in almoſt any other part of Scotland. There are few Seceders in this pariſh from the eſtabliſhed Church. There are, however, two or three families of Antiburghers and M'Millanites. One of the clergymen of the latter ſect has his reſidence in the pariſh, although the number of his adherents is very ſmall. He preaches occaſionally in different parts of Galloway, and at home only by turns. The amount of the ſtipend is 72 l. 4s. Sterling. The glebe conſiſts of 20 acres of land, 10 of which are arable. The value of the living, excluſive of the houſes and garden, may be about 84 l. *per annum*. The number of poor perſons upon the pariſh-roll is at preſent 25. Theſe receive about 30 l. *per annum*, which is diſtributed to them quarterly. This ſum ariſes almoſt entirely from the collections made on the Sabbath, a very ſmall part of it only being the intereſt of ſome money left for their behoof. From this account of the matter, it appears that the poor are but very indifferently provided for. The heritors have never been aſſeſſed, although this is a meaſure which it would certainly be prudent and humane to adopt.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—The prices of labour are various. In huſbandry, during ſpring, ſummer, and harveſt, the labourer receives 1 s. *per* day at ordinary works. For cutting peats, 1 s. 4 d.; for cutting hay, 1 s. 6 d. A woman at weeding, &c. 6 d. But, at reaping, both men and women receive 1 s. In winter, a man gets 10 d. The labourer who is hired by the year, and has a family, is generally paid by what is called a *benefit*. This benefit conſiſts of a houſe, garden, 50 ſtone of oat-meal, 2 or 3 pounds in money, his fuel led home, liberty to plant 3 or 4 buſhels of potatoes.

When

When he eats in his maſter's houſe, this is all that he receives; but, if he eats in his own, he is allowed to keep a cow, and has ſome addition made to his money or meal. Theſe benefits are worth from 15 l. to 16 l. yearly. Upon this, when they are ſober, which is moſtly the caſe, and their wives induſtrious, they are enabled to bring up healthy and vigorous families, and to give them all the education which their ſituation in life requires. I do not know one inſtance of indigence in the pariſh which has not proceeded from miſconduct, ſickneſs, or old age. The happy circumſtances of the people, however, are certainly much owing to the potatoes which they are allowed to plant. A great part of their ſuſtenance is derived from this ſource. The huſband generally takes care to have them well dunged, and his wife and children employ their leiſure hours in keeping them clean; ſo that the cottagers potatoes generally look the beſt of any in the field.—A farm ſervant living in the houſe gets 8 l.; a maid ſervant 3 l. *per annum*.

Language, Manners, &c.—The language at preſent ſpoken in this pariſh is that which is common to all the low lands of Scotland. But, although it is a dialect of the Engliſh which is now ſpoken, there is no doubt that Gaelic was formerly the language of this country, and of all the weſt coaſt of Britain, but a few ages ago. Buchanan ſays, that this was the language of Galloway even in his time. The names of places in this pariſh confirm the truth of the remark.

The people of this pariſh are, in general, ſober and induſtrious. They have been even able, in a great meaſure, to withſtand the pernicious influence of Britiſh ſpirits, which, to the misfortune of this country, are too commonly in uſe. The lower claſſes poſſeſs a degree of information which is unuſual

unuſual among peaſants. While engaged in tending their ſheep they have long intervals of leiſure. Many of them fill up theſe with reading and reflection. Hence they are always better informed than the mechanics, or even the labourers who are engaged in agriculture.

Many of the farmers are decent and intelligent men. They are moſtly wealthy, and live in a very comfortable ſtile. Some of them pay a great deal of rent. One, in particular, pays 500 l. Sterling *per annum*, and has a ſtock of near 6000 ſheep.

Antiquities.—There were formerly ſeveral *tumuli* on the banks of the Cree. In the year 1754, ſome of theſe were opened, and arms found in them, particularly three pieces of armour, all of which ſeem to have been offenſive. One of them was formed very much like a halbert. The ſecond was ſhaped on one ſide like a hatchet; but, ſubjoined to the back part of this hatchet, there was an inſtrument reſembling a pavier's hammer. The third was like a ſpade, but much ſmaller in ſize. Each of theſe had a proper aperture for receiving a handle. When they were firſt diſcovered, they were ſo much covered with ruſt, with which they ſeemed to be much corroded, that it was impoſſible to diſtinguiſh of what metal they were made; but they were at laſt found to be of braſs. They lay for many years in a farm-houſe in the pariſh; but it is not now known what is become of them. Near the place where theſe were found, ſome veſtiges of an intrenchment are ſtill to be diſcovered; and formerly, at no great diſtance from this, ſome large ſtones were placed, incloſing a circular piece of ground. Theſe circumſtances tend ſtrongly to confirm the truth of an account which Buchanan, in his Hiſtory of Scotland, gives of a battle which was fought near the Cree, by the Scots on one ſide, and the Romans and Picts on the other.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—It has been already obſerved, that the great road from London to Dublin paſſes through this pariſh for ſeveral miles. The advantages of this are too obvious to need any remarks. We have alſo ſeveral other roads of great utility. One directly to Edinburgh interſects this pariſh for 12 miles. Another, which is now making to Ayr, alſo paſſes through it for ſeveral miles. This road is the effect of the patriotiſm and public ſpirit of the gentlemen of Galloway and of Ayrſhire, as the whole expence is to be defrayed by their ſubſcriptions. The utility of the object will well reward them for whatever it may coſt. There was formerly no carriage road to Ayr without going round almoſt 40 miles. The great advantage of having a communication opened with ſo rich a country as Ayrſhire will ſoon be experienced.

This pariſh produces neither lime nor coals. Lime, however, is got from England. It coſts, at the ſhore, 13 d. *per* Carliſle buſhel. The farmers generally lay on 50 buſhels to the acre, but it is by far too little. Shells, which are found on the neighbouring ſhores, are alſo ſucceſsfully uſed as a manure. They are brought in ſmall veſſels for ſome miles up the Cree; and, when landed, the beſt kind coſt 1 s. 4 d. *per* ton. 25 ton are commonly given to the acre. The ſame error is committed here as in the lime.

The coals, as well as the lime, are brought from England. They might be procured on very reaſonable terms, were it not for the duty they pay as on exportation, though they are only carried acroſs a frith, from the Engliſh to the Scottiſh border. This duty renders them very high priced, and repreſſes the ſpirit of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, in every part of Galloway.

NUM-

NUMBER IV.

TOWN OF PAISLEY.

(County of Renfrew.—Presbytery of Paisley.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Dr JOHN SNODGRASS.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE town of Paisley, one of the most considerable manufacturing towns in Scotland, lies in the shire of Renfrew, and about six miles and a half west from Glasgow. Its situation upon the banks of the river Cart is equally pleasant and commodious. It was erected into a burgh in barony by James IV. in the year 1488 *, at that time probably deriving all its importance from the rich monastery which had been established there for several ages; for George Shaw, who was then abbot of that monastery, obtained this privilege from the King. Even in Mr Crawford's time, who wrote the history of the shire of Renfrew near the beginning of this century, it seems to have been but an inconsiderable place; for he describes it as consisting only of one principal street, about half a mile in length, with several lanes belonging to it; whereas now the town, with its suburbs, occupies such an extent of ground, that strangers

* The burgh is governed by three magistrates and seventeen counsellors, and is not represented in Parliament.

ſtrangers are apt to conſider it as, next to Edinburgh and Glaſgow, the largeſt and moſt populous town in Scotland. Its buildings of late years have been greatly improved; its ſtreets are well paved; and the different parts of the town and ſuburbs, where the river intervenes, are connected with one another by three bridges at convenient diſtances.

Trade and Manufactures.—The trade and manufactures of Paiſley, which have always chiefly been in the weaving branch, are the main articles which render it of importance in a hiſtory of this nature. Theſe may be traced from very ſmall beginnings; but their progreſs in ſome periods has been rapid and aſtoniſhing. Not long after the Union, when a free trade was opened with England, the ſpirit of manufacture began to ſhow itſelf there; and the fabrics which were produced were made upon ſuch juſt and oeconomical principles, and with ſo much taſte and judgment, that they found a ready market not only at home, but likewiſe in the neighbouring kingdom. But the trade of Paiſley, in that period, owed its chief encouragement to a ſet of men who were of great benefit to this country, though they are now diſcountenanced, and laid under ſevere reſtrictions by government; I mean, the pedlars or travelling merchants in England, many of whom having frequented Paiſley as their ſtaple, and having gained a little money by their trade, came to ſettle in that town, and bought up large quantities of its manufactures, which they vended among their friends and correſpondents in England. Afterwards the merchants in Glaſgow found their account in purchaſing theſe goods, and ſending them both to the London market and to foreign parts. Such was the ſtate of the trade and manufactures of Paiſley from ſoon after the Union till about the year 1760. The different articles of which they conſiſted, during that period,

period, were, at firſt, coarſe checkered linen cloth, and bengals; afterwards checkered linen handkerchiefs, ſome of them fine, and beautifully variegated, by the manner in which the different colours were diſpoſed, according to the taſte and invention of the manufacturers. Theſe were ſucceeded by fabrics of a lighter and more fanciful kind, conſiſting not only of plain lawns, but likewiſe thoſe that were ſtriped or checkered with cotton, and others that were ornamented with a great variety of figures; ſome of which laſt articles ſtill continue to be manufactured there. Towards the end of the above mentioned period, the making of linen gauze was a conſiderable branch of trade in Paiſley; and, before the middle of it, a new ſpecies of manufacture of great importance was begun by the inhabitants of this place, which they have continued to proſecute with peculiar advantage; I mean, the making of white ſewing thread, known to the merchants by the name of *ounce thread*, as diſtinguiſhed from the different kinds of coloured and white thread which have been manufactured chiefly at Aberdeen and Dundee. This valuable branch of trade may be ſaid to have been imported into this country by a gentlewoman in that neighbourhood *, who, about the year 1725, found means to procure from Holland the machinery which is neceſſary for carrying it on, and ſet the firſt example of it in her own family. Such a ſpirit of enterpriſe, of ingenuity, and of ſober induſtry, marks a character of high diſtinction in the ſtatiſtical account of any country. The manufacturing genius of the people of Paiſley well knew how to profit by ſo worthy an example. That buſineſs was ſoon introduced there, where it has had its principal ſeat ever ſince, and is now carried on to a very conſiderable extent.—About the year 1760, the making of ſilk gauze

* Mrs Millar of Bargaran.

gauze was firſt attempted at Paiſley, in imitation of that of Spittalfields in London. The ſucceſs was beyond the moſt ſanguine expectations of thoſe who engaged in it. The inventive ſpirit, and the patient application of the workmen; the cheapneſs of labour at that time, and the ſkill and taſte of the maſters, gave it every advantage for being naturaliſed there. The conſequence was, that nice and curious fabrics were deviſed, and ſuch a vaſt variety of elegant and richly ornamented gauze was iſſued from that place, as outdid every thing of the kind that had formerly appeared. Spittalfields was obliged to relinquiſh the manufacture. Companies came down from London to carry it on at Paiſley, where it proſpered and increaſed, it is believed, beyond any manufacture which any town in Scotland could boaſt of. Indeed, it not only became the great diſtinguiſhing manufacture of that town, but it filled the country round, to the diſtance of 20 miles; and the gentlemen engaged in it had not only warehouſes in London and Dublin, but they had correſpondents upon the continent, and ſhops for vending their commodities even in Paris itſelf. It is true, that the change of faſhion, upon which this trade entirely depends, has of late had an unfavourable aſpect towards it: But there is reaſon to hope, that it will ſmile upon it again; and, in the mean time, ſome of the principal houſes in that place, while they are puſhing their former branch as far as they can, have entered into the muſlin manufacture with their accuſtomed ardour; but, I muſt add, conſidering that this is a branch which has as yet no fixed principles, with a judgment and prudence by which men of buſineſs are ever diſtinguiſhed from raſh and unwary adventurers.

It appears, from the beſt calculation that could be made, that, in the year 1784, the manufactures of Paiſley, in ſilk gauze, lawn and linen gauze, and white ſewing thread, a-

mounted to the value of 579,185 l. 16 s. 6 d. and that no fewer than 26,484 perſons were employed in carrying them on. It is difficult to give an exact account of the ſtate of its manufactures at preſent. The ſilk branch has evidently declined, but the muſlin has ſo far come in its room, and the thread manufacture is conſiderably increaſed. There is, however, reaſon to conclude, that though it is daily advancing, it has not yet recovered its former greatneſs.

Beſides theſe principal manufactures, there are ſome others carried on there of too much importance to be overlooked. For inſtance, conſiderable tan-works, four in number, two ſoap and candle works, a manufacture of ribbons, and another of inkle or tape.

Theſe valuable manufactures have had a moſt beneficial influence over all the neighbouring country. By the increaſe of population and wealth which they have occaſioned, the farmer can diſpoſe of every article of his produce to the greateſt advantage. This ſtimulates his induſtry, agriculture flouriſhes apace, and the value of land is amaſingly increaſed. The ſpirit of manufacture is the ſecret ſpring which puts all in motion; and the weaver upon his loom, while he provides a comfortable ſubſiſtence for himſelf and his family, may be conſidered as miniſtering to the eaſe and to the elegance even of the gentleman who lives upon his country eſtate.

Population in 1695,	2200			
——— in 1755,	4290			
——— in 1782,	11100			
	Fam.	*Souls.*	*Males.*	*Fem.*
——— in 1792,	3232	13800	6577	7223
	Under 15.	15 *to* 70.	*Above* 70.	
	5129	8437	234	

Theſe numbers do not include the ſuburbs, which are to be referred to Abbey pariſh.

Baptiſms

Baptiſms and Marriages.

	Bap. males.	*Females.*	*Marriages.*
In 1787,	289	208	153
1788,	243	274	137
1789,	236	194	109
1790,	204	232	148

Number of diſſenters, 2550.

Pariſhes, Churches, &c.—The town of Paiſley continued a part of the original or Abbey pariſh of Paiſley till the year 1738, when the Magiſtrates and Council having purchaſed the right of patronage from the then Earl of Dundonald, a new church was built, and the town was erected into a ſeparate pariſh. In 1756 another church was built, upon a very extended plan, to accommodate its multiplied inhabitants, in which, though it is one of the largeſt in Scotland, yet the moſt diſtant of the congregation can hear a tolerably good ſpeaker with eaſe and diſtinctneſs; and, as it ſtands upon the higheſt part of the town, it was afterwards ornamented with a lofty and well-proportioned ſpire. In 1781, the number of the inhabitants ſtill rapidly increaſing, another church was built not quite ſo large as the former, but very handſomely and elegantly finiſhed; and, in the following year, the town was divided, and erected into three ſeparate pariſhes, viz. the Low Church, the High Church, and the Middle Church pariſhes. The three pariſhes are an area of about a mile and a half ſquare, cut out of the old original pariſh, by which they are bounded; and the ſtipend of each miniſter, which has of late been augmented, is 130l. without manſe or glebe.

There are two large diſſenting congregations in the town, thoſe of the Antiburgher perſuaſion and the Relief. The firſt of theſe has exiſted there for upwards of 30 years; the other is of a late date; and they are both ſupplied with miniſters

niſters who ſeem to have no further aim than that of diſcharging the duties of their office in a quiet and conſcientious manner. There is likewiſe a ſmall congregation of Cameronians.

Poor.—A manufacturing town muſt always have a great proportion of poor belonging to it. When trade is briſk, great numbers of tradesfolk, and working people of all deſcriptions will naturally flock to it by reaſon of the encouragement which they expect to meet with; and it is contrary to the intereſt of its manufacturers to be very ſcrupulous in admitting them. Many of theſe, when trade becomes dull, or when ſickneſs and debility overtake them, will neceſſarily be reduced to circumſtances of penury and want. They muſt then fall a burden upon the public; and it is a matter of vaſt importance, that, while they receive an adequate ſubſiſtence, induſtry be not diſcouraged, and that they be maintained in a manner not only the leaſt expenſive to the community, but likewiſe the leaſt ſenſibly felt.

The plan of ſupporting the poor by the weekly collections at the church-doors, under the management of the miniſter and elders of every pariſh, has produced ſuch ſalutary effects, that it certainly deſerves the higheſt commendation. No ſet of men are better acquainted with the ſituation and characters of the poor than they. They therefore can judge exactly both what ſupplies they may need, and how they may be given them with moſt advantage. It is much to be regretted, that, while this mode of maintaining the poor, in many parts of Scotland, is diſcontinued, recourſe is had to a ſcheme of ſupporting them by a diſcretionary tax upon the inhabitants, under the management of what are called overſeers. The progreſs of this ſcheme is not a little alarming, as there is too much reaſon to fear that it will be productive

of

of very bad effects. It puts charity entirely off its natural principle. It is calculated to multiply the poor, and to increaſe their demands, by holding out to their view a ſettled maintenance which they can call their own. It diveſts them of ſenſibility, by teaching them to claim it as their right, when they would be aſhamed to appear in the character of beggars. Thus it is unfavourable to induſtry; and it will bring at length an intolerable burden upon the country. It is well known what evils are aſcribed to the poor-tax in England. But Dr Windeborn brings a new charge againſt it, by aſſerting, that, though there are in no country ſuch large contributions raiſed for the ſupport of the poor as in England, yet there is no where ſo great a number of them; *and their condition, in compariſon with the poor of other countries, appears truly the moſt miſerable.* If a ſimilar mode of providing for the poor ſhould prevail in this country, there is little ſecurity againſt the ſame evils attending it which have been ſo long complained of in the neighbouring kingdom.

Paiſley proceeds upon the old plan, of maintaining the poor as far as it is practicable in a populous town, and exhibits a proof of the excellency of that method. Though the town is divided, as has been already obſerved, into three diſtinct pariſhes, yet, in reſpect of the maintenance of the poor, they are conſidered as one. Their funds are thrown into one common ſtock; and the miniſters and elders of the ſeveral pariſhes meet together from time to time to conſider the neceſſities of the poor, and to give them ſuitable relief. The number of poor whom they have either occaſionally relieved, or entirely ſupported, for the laſt two years, amounts to 240 each year, beſides 13 children each year whom they put out to nurſing, and 25 whom they ſent to ſchool. The collections at the church-doors were, at an average, 393 l. 12 s. 1½ d. each year, beſides about 108 l. ariſing from proclamations

clamations of banns, mortified money, &c. So that the whole yearly ſum by which 240 perſons were enabled to keep houſe, 13 children were nurſed, making, the ſecond year, a burden of 26, and 25 educated, was only 501l. 12s. 1½d.

It is believed, that no money is laid out with greater attention than this, or can go farther in promoting the true purpoſes of charity. The people who receive it are much better pleaſed than even to be more comfortably provided for out of their own houſes. This is a ſpur to induſtry in thoſe who are able to make themſelves any help, and the money is raiſed in a way that can never be felt, three fourths of the whole ſum being the yearly contributions of three large congregations at the church-doors, and given moſtly in halfpence, except upon extraordinary occaſions.

In ſuch a town an hoſpital is certainly neceſſary for maintaining poor and deſtitute children, and as an aſylum for the infirm and the aged, who have none to take care of them. For theſe purpoſes an hoſpital was erected there in 1752. The houſe is capacious: It is built in a free and airy part of the town, and has a large garden belonging to it. It is under the management of 15 directors, who are choſen annually; three from the town-council, one from each pariſh ſeſſion, and the reſt choſen by the council from among the inhabitants at large. It is conducted upon the ſtricteſt principles of oeconomy, and with great attention to health, cleanlineſs, and good order, and has hitherto anſwered the ends of its inſtitution as much, perhaps, as any of the kind.

The following is a ſtate of the expence, and of the perſons maintained in it for the laſt three years.

Children

	Child. from 4 to 12 years old.	*Infirm & aged.*	*Expence.*
1788,	60	46	L. 471 1 2
1789,	75	46	524 6 0
1790,	66	54	520 7 4
	201	146	L. 1515 14 6

From this account it appears, that the average expence of each perſon yearly was - L. 4 7 4$\frac{1}{3}$
Deduct for the labour of the houſe in 3 years 223 10 8
And the expence of each perſon to the public was only - - - - 3 14 5$\frac{1}{4}$

The children are educated and brought up to induſtry from their earlieſt years. The charge of management is exceedingly ſmall, as there is only a miſtreſs and a ſchoolmaſter at very moderate ſalaries, and a ſingle houſe-maid; and the annual expence is defrayed by mortified money, and a ſmall aſſeſſment upon the inhabitants. Such is the manner in which the poor of the town of Paiſley are provided for and maintained.

There are, indeed, large ſums of money diſtributed yearly by the ſeveral trades from their boxes, as they are called, among thoſe of their number who are diſabled from working. Theſe inſtitutions, however, are to be conſidered in ſomewhat of a different light; for, as they are intended to be a ſecurity againſt want, they are conſtructed upon ſuch a principle, as that the perſon who receives ſupply, only draws out the money which he had formerly put in, along with part, perhaps, of the contributions of his brethren, which they all chearfully give, in order to be aſſured of the ſame comfortable proviſion. A ſcheme of this nature may, at firſt ſight, be thought liable to ſome of the objections which have been

been brought againſt the poor-tax, particularly, that it tends to promote idleneſs, and that the benefit which it affords may be drawn away by undeſerving objects. But this does not ſeem to be the caſe in fact, and there is no arguing againſt experience. The pride of enriching the box, and of being a ſupport to the trade, inſtead of a burden upon it;—a jealouſy that pervades all its members, leſt any of their money ſhould be improperly given away;—the diſgrace that attends an unneceſſary application;—and the evident ruin of the ſcheme if ſuch applications are not effectually diſcouraged, all cooperate for the prevention of any of thoſe evils which otherwiſe, perhaps, might be apprehended from it.

Schools.—There is an eſtabliſhed Engliſh ſchool in each of the three pariſhes, which are well filled with ſcholars; and, as each ſchoolmaſter is ſeſſion-clerk of the pariſh to which he belongs, the emoluments of the two offices bring a decent and comfortable living. There is likewiſe a public grammar ſchool, with a houſe and ſalary, and a ſchool for teaching writing, arithmetic, &c. beſides many private ſchools, which meet with good encouragement, and a Sunday ſchool for thoſe whoſe education is in danger of being altogether neglected; but ſuch is the attention that is paid to the education of poor children in that town, that all the three pariſhes afford but a ſmall number of the above deſcription.

ABSTRACT

Total yearly value of the Manufactures of Paiſley L. 660,285 16 9

ABSTRACT *of the* MANUFACTURES *of* PAISLEY, *with their Value, and the Number of People employed in them. Communicated by a Gentleman of that Town in the year* 1789.

Manufactures.	*Employments in the manufactures.*	No. *of hands.*		*Produce in money.*
Silk Gauze.	Weavers employed in this branch in Paisley - -	5000		
	Winders, warpers, clippers, overseers, &c. employed	5000		
			10000	
	Value manufactured by every silk loom 70l. Sterling *per annum*, at an average, is - - - -			L. 350,000 0 0
Lawns.	Weavers employed in these branches - -	2800		
Cambrics.	Winders, warpers, clippers, overseers, bleachers, &c.	1100		
Thread Gauze & Muslins.	Spinners of the yarn used in this manufacture	7384		
	Makers of machinery, implements, heddles, &c. for silk and lawn - - - - - -	800		
			12084	
	1600 of those now employed in the muslin trade.			
	Value of the lawns, cambrics, and muslins manufactured is -			180,385 16 0
White or Threads.	Spinners, winders, bleachers, twisters, and mill-drivers -		4800	
	Value of this manufacture amounts to - - -			70,000 0 0
Hard & Soft Soap & Candles.	Value of these branches will amount to - - -			48,000 0 0
Incle, Ribbon, Tanworks, &c.	Value of these Trades put together will be - - -			12,000 0 0
	Total yearly value of the Manufactures of Paisley			L. 660,385 16 0

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF THE ABBEY OF PAISLEY.

(*County of Renfrew.—Presbytery of Paisley.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.*)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT BOOG.

Situation and Extent.

THE parish of Paisley is in length, from east to west, about nine miles, varying in breadth from half a mile to about three. 'Till 1736, the parish extended over the town of Paisley; but an additional church at that time becoming necessary, the town was erected into a separate parish; and the original parish has, since that period, been distinguished by the name of the *Abbey parish*, or, more properly, *the parish of the Abbey of Paisley*.

No satisfactory etymology has hitherto occurred of the name *Paisley*. The following has been suggested by a good Gaelic scholar: "A ridge of rocks that runs across the river, and forms a beautiful cascade, would, prior to the building of the town, be undoubtedly the most striking object that this place would present. The brow or face of a rock is, in Gaelic, *Pais-licht*. A church in front of the rock would be the church in *Pais-licht*. A church did stand here previous to 1160; it is named in the foundation charter *Ecclesia de Paselet*, Latinized, in the records of the monastery, *Pasletum*, an easy derivative from *Pais-licht*, in all probability the original of the modern *Paisley*."

Surface

Surface and Soil.—It is generally of a gently waving ſurface, frequently ſwelling, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of Paiſley, into beautiful little eminences. A conſiderable part of it to the north of the town is a perfect level, having been anciently moſs, extending in the year 1719, when a ſurvey of it was made, to about 300 acres; but now reduced to about 130 by the operation of burning, which, in dry ſeaſons, is ſtill carried on with ſucceſs. The ſouth part of the pariſh riſes into a tract of hilly ground, known by the name of *Paiſley* or *Stanley Braes.* The greateſt elevation to which theſe grounds riſe in this pariſh is about 680 feet above flood-mark at Paiſley. Part of them is moſs and heath, but the bulk of them is good ſheep paſture, and even a conſiderable part of them arable. The ſoil of the pariſh, as may be expected in ſuch an extenſive diſtrict, varies. It is in general thin, with a bottom of gravel, more frequently of till, very retentive of moiſture. In the flat grounds, and along the banks of the rivers, it is rich and fertile; leſs ſo, thinner, and more ſtony, as it riſes to the ſouth.

Air and Diſeaſes.—The air is moiſt, a neceſſary conſequence of the prevailing ſouth-weſt winds, which, coming loaded with vapour from the Atlantic, produce frequent and heavy rains. The effects of this moiſt atmoſphere appear in rheumatiſms, quinſeys, pneumonic ailments, and all the tribe of inflammatory diſorders. Upon the whole, however, this pariſh, and even the neighbouring town, cannot be ſaid to be unhealthy. Contagions, indeed, at times viſit this as other places, which run their uſual courſe as epidemics; but none are remembered of any uncommon violence, except a pleuriſy in ſummer 1771, and which, contrary to the received opinion, was truly epidemic. There are no diſorders that can be ſaid to be endemic, unleſs ſcrophula is to be excepted, which

which is still but too common. This has been ascribed to the water used by the inhabitants in Paisley: It more probably proceeded from, it certainly was greatly aggravated by, poor living, and by the damp shops which were necessary for the linen manufacture; for, since silk-weaving became the general employment, and increase of trade has introduced better living, this disorder is less frequent. From the same causes probably it is that swelled and sore legs, once extremely common here, are now but rarely met with. Dysentery raged with great violence in 1765; since that time it has been scarcely complained of. Nervous fevers at times appear, but they are neither very general nor uncommonly fatal. It is to be apprehended, that the confinement and sedentary posture of the weaver, and the laborious life of the bleacher, are frequent causes of consumptive complaints. Intermittents, which, from the damp air, and adjoining moss, might be expected to be common, are not so much as known.

Water.—The water in Paisley and the suburbs is but indifferent; and there is scarce any thing more wanted for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants than a plentiful supply of good spring water. But now, that every spring and rill is occupied and become valuable property, this is scarcely to be hoped for.

Rivers.—Besides the Black Cart, which, rising in Castle Semple Loch, partly bounds the parish on the north, and the rivulet Levern, which marks it on the south-east, the parish is watered by the river White Cart. It rises in the high grounds about Kilbride, and, entering this parish from the east, flows in a pretty direct westerly course towards the town. After forming a beautiful fall at Seedhill-mill, it turns northerly, and, about a mile below the town, enters

Renfrew

Renfrew pariſh, and joins the river Gryfe at Inchinan-bridge. In the Cart are found perch, trout, flounders, and braiſes, or gilt-heads, but none of them in any conſiderable quantities, owing, no doubt, in a great degree to the bleachfields, print-fields, and a copperas work upon the banks of the river. As for the fine large pearls once found in this river, and which, according to our old hiſtorians, had been noticed by the moſt eminent jewellers in Europe, they have long diſappeared, and the river has become a more certain ſource of wealth by its utility to an induſtrious and manufacturing neighbourhood. Of ſeveral ſmaller rivulets in the pariſh, none are ſo conſiderable from their ſize as to merit notice. Covered, however, as their banks every where are with thread, lawns, or muſlins, they have all become highly valuable to their proprietors, and of great importance to the country.—The river White Cart was, by direction of the Magiſtrates of Paiſley, ſurveyed by Mr Whiteworth in 1786. He reported, that, by removing ſome rocks and ſhoals in the river, a depth of ſeven feet of water might be obtained in ordinary ſpring-tides; and, as the channel is but ſhallow under Inchinan-bridge, as it could not be eaſily or ſafely deepened there, and as, at any rate, veſſels with ſtanding maſts could not paſs under the arches, he propoſed to avoid that part of the navigation by means of a navigable canal, which ſhould leave the river a little above, and join it again below the bridge. The expence of the whole, including a draw-bridge acroſs the canal, was eſtimated at 1900 l. The plan being approved of, an act of Parliament was obtained, empowering the Magiſtrates and other truſtees to carry on the work, and defray the expence by a tonnage of eight-pence *per* ton upon all veſſels navigating the Cart, with an exception in favour of thoſe loaded with coal. The work is now completed, but at an expence of about 4000 l. The navigation is greatly improved,

but

but not to the degree that was expected; and probably, to obtain an unobstructed passage at all times to and from Paisley, some further operations upon the river and canal will still be necessary. The tonnage lets at present for 155 l. But, from Whitsunday 1792 to that term 1793, it has been let for 250 l. Paisley has derived considerable advantages from the completing of the great canal between Forth and Clyde. The great and increasing demand for Baltic goods have rendered that navigation of more consequence to Paisley than it was perhaps at first supposed it would be. But, to give this place the full benefit of it, a branch would be necessary from the great canal to the Clyde, to terminate as nearly opposite to the mouth of Paisley river as the ground would permit. Perhaps it could not be brought nearer than Newshot Isle. The distance at this place between the canal and the Clyde is but about one third of a mile; its elevation above the level of the river nearly 22 feet. Two locks would therefore be necessary, and from these the chief expence of the work would arise. The advantages, however, would be great. The navigation would be shortened no less than five miles for vessels and rafts of wood coming to Paisley. Two days would be saved each trip to the proprietors of goods. The bulky articles of corn, wood, iron, coal, ashes, soap waste, &c. &c. which are intended for Paisley, Kilbarchan, Johnstoun, Beith, Houston, Neilstoun, &c. would be brought to Paisley by water-carriage, instead of being landed at Port-Dundas, and sent from thence by land-carriage. The manufacturers of Paisley might send a great part of their goods from their warehouses immediately by water-carriage to London and other places. A considerable increase of tonnage would arise to the proprietors of the great canal, and many important advantages to an extensive and populous tract of country.

Woods.

Woods.—There are no woods of any great extent in the pariſh; perhaps about 140 acres of natural oak, aſh, birch, plane, &c. may be the amount of the whole, upon three or four different eſtates. The Foreſt of Paiſley exiſts only in ancient records. Walter, Great Steward of Scotland, by the charter of foundation of the monaſtery of Paiſley, grants to the monks "Decimas de omnibus terris infra *Foreſtum* ſuum de Paſleto." In Prynne's Collections, we meet with "John le Hunter de la foreſte de Paſly." And, in 1460 and 1524, the tenant of Dunſkaith-wood, in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, is bound by the abbot "Cuſtodire ſylvam et ſuſtentare foſſas circa dictam ſylvam." The names of Woodſide, Oakſhawſide, and Oakſhawhead, are the only traces that remain of thoſe woods.

Roads.—The only turnpike-road in the pariſh is that running through it from eaſt to weſt. Of late years, it has been kept in very good repair. The others, which depend upon the ſtatute labour, are in a very indifferent ſtate. This, it is hoped, will be remedied by a bill to be brought into Parliament next ſeſſion for making ſome new turnpike-roads, converting the ſtatute work into money, and regulating the application of it.

Mines and Minerals.—There are five coal-mines at preſent wrought in the pariſh. That at Hurlet, belonging to the Earl of Glaſgow; Quarreltown, to Mr Houſtoun of Johnſtoun; Achinloadmont, to Mr Fulton of Achinloadmont; Nutſhiel, to Mr Dunlop of Houſehill; and one lately opened in the lands of Newton, the property of Mr Spiers of Elderſlie. Of theſe, the two firſt merit particular notice.—The Hurlet or Hawkhead coal lies about three miles ſouth-eaſt from Paiſley. It is a ſtratum 5 feet 3 inches thick, declining

clining eaſtward, with a dip about one foot in ſeven. This valuable ſeam has been wrought, it is ſuppoſed, for conſiderably more than 200 years. In 1634, there were five miners employed; of late there have been from 20 to 30; and the yearly produce, on an average of 20 years, is about 10,000 tons. Inflammable and fixed air are met with in this mine; but the pits are ſo well ventilated, there being a complete communication between ſhafts half a mile diſtant, that, tho' accidents ſometimes have happened, they are not frequent. It is well aſcertained, that fire has been generated in theſe mines, and among the coals upon the hills, by the martial pyrites with which they abound.—The coal at Quarreltown is one of the moſt extraordinary maſſes of that mineral in Britain. It conſiſts, in effect, of five contiguous ſtrata. The thickneſs of the whole, meaſured at right angles to the ſurface of the ſtrata, is upwards of 50 feet; but as, in ſome places, the ſeam forms a very conſiderable angle with the horizon, the thickneſs of the whole in theſe places, meaſured vertically, is about 15 fathoms. In conſequence of this great depth, it is worked in different floors or ſtoreys. Till of late, the work was carried on *horizontally* from the ſhaft, ſo as ſucceſſively to interſect all the five ſtrata. At preſent, the miner purſues the ſame ſtratum, riſing with it. In the former mode of working, there were five ſeveral floors or ſtoreys; in the preſent, there are only three; the firſt, third, and fifth ſtratum being wrought, and afterwards ſo much of the ſecond and fourth as may be done with ſafety.—It is difficult to convey a clear idea of the manner in which this ſingular maſs of coal lies. In a field of about 15 acres, it is found to dip in ſeveral different directions. At leaſt, conceiving a nearly circular area of thoſe contents, the coal, from the north, the eaſt, and ſouth quarters of that circle, dips pretty uniformly towards the centre. This, however, is, in ſome meaſure,

meaſure, interrupted by ſeveral hitches, at one of which the maſs of coal is ſuddenly thrown up about 50 feet, at another about 30. Theſe hitches interrupt not only the direction, but the degree of the dip. On one ſide of the firſt mentioned hitch, it is about one foot in three; on the other ſide, only one in ſix. Some years ago this coal took fire; and the pillars giving way, the ground ſunk, and left the ſurface in a very rugged ſtate. The excellent judgment and perſevering induſtry of the proprietor have ſurmounted many difficulties that have occurred in working this valuable coal. It now employs about 30 pick-men; and there are commonly 12 or 14 horſes below ground. The produce ſome years has been not leſs than twenty thouſand tons.

Free ſtone quarries abound in the pariſh. The ſtone in moſt of them is of a good quality, lies near the ſurface, and generally dips towards the eaſt. A quarry of coarſe granite or blue whin, in what was formerly the Abbey garden, affords excellent materials for paving the ſtreets. A ſtone, here called *Oſmond ſtone*, found on the tops of the hills in this and the adjoining pariſh of Nielſton, is uſed for hearths of ovens; but the Inverary ſtone is preferred to it.—We have ſeveral lime-ſtone quarries. That at Stanley, the property of the Earl of Glaſgow, merits the examination of the curious. An enormous rock, projecting from the brow of a hill, contains the limeſtone lying in a maſs of about ten feet thick, and dipping towards a centre, like the Quarreltown coal. Several mines have been driven into the rock; and theſe meeting in the heart of it, preſent a very ſingular piece of ſubterranean ſcenery. The limeſtone at Blackhall, the property of Sir Michael Stewart, is alſo wrought by mining, but not without danger, having only a clay roof. The Hurlet lime lies in a ſtratum three feet thick, incumbent on the ſeam of coal. After the coal is dug out, the limeſtone is blown

down with gun-powder, about one half being left to support the strata above.

Fossils.—Fossil shells, and other marine *exuviae*, are found in great quantities in all our lime quarries; such as entrochi, which are numerous; anomiae, both with the perforated and entire beak; gryphites; milliperes; fungites; several varieties of pectens, and many others, which do not exist in their natural state upon our shores. All these abound in the lime-quarry at Floors, the property of Mr Houstoun of Johnstoun, and are generally found contained in a stratum of white clay immediately incumbent on the lime. Corals and shells have been found in sinking the shafts for the Hawkhead coal; the former in detached pieces of limestone, a few feet from the surface; the latter involved in the mass of schistus immediately over the coal, and at a depth of not less than 160 feet. Among these are the ortho-ceratites, turbinated cochleae, and several species of bivalves; all of them retaining their original form, and shining like the marcasite in common slate.—In sinking a shaft for that coal in 1786, the several strata occurred as follows:

	Feet.	*In.*
1. Earth and clay - - - -	42	0
2. Sand and gravel - - - -	8	0
3. Schistus or till, with some thin strata of lime and iron stone - - -	105	0
4. Limestone - - - -	3	0
5. Schistus, of an aluminous quality - -	3	1
6. Coal - - - - - -	5	3
	166	4

In the limestone, No. 4. crystals of calcareous spar are found: They are deposited in open crevices, the sides of which are lined

lined with them. Rhomboidal ſpar, both opake and tranſparent, is alſo met with. The ſchiſtus, No. 5. is extremely hard; but, when lying in a dry place, as in the waſte of the coal-pit, it gradually decompoſes, and acquires a flacky appearance. It is a beautiful vitriolic efloreſcence, perfectly reſembling plume alum, but ſeems to have more of the vitriolated *iron* than vitriolated *clay*. In this ſtratum of ſchiſtus, and in the ſtratum of coal, pyrites abound ſo much, that native copperas is ſometimes found. They lie not in any regular bed, but interſperſed through the ſtratum, and are ſeparated from the coal by the workmen. They are employed in a copperas or green vitriol manufacture, eſtabliſhed at Hurlet in 1753 by a company from Liverpool.—A bituminous ſubſtance is found both in the lime and whin-ſtone quarries. It drops in a fluid ſtate from the limeſtone at Blackhall. In that at Hurlet it is found ſolid; ſometimes ſo indurated as to be brittle; ſometimes ſo ſoft as to cut with a knife; in either ſtate highly inflammable.

Figured Stones.—At Harelaw, a farm belonging to the Earl of Glaſgow, are found ſtones in conſiderable quantities, with well defined vegetable impreſſions. The impreſſions are upon a concave ſurface, and evidently formed by its application to the convexity of a ſtem or branch of a tree. In ſome ſpecimens, they preſent the appearance of a kind of rhomboidal net-work; in others, that of regular indentations, nearly reſembling what we may conceive would be retained by a ſoft body from its application to the cone of the fir-tree. A body of a compreſſed cylindrical form, which has communicated theſe impreſſions, is ſometimes found: It is figured upon the ſurface in a manner correſponding to theſe indentations: And, though no plant preciſely reſembling it is now known in this country, it is evidently a portion of a petrified branch

or

or ſmall trunk of a tree. The ſtones thus marked are commonly free-ſtone; ſometimes, but more rarely, iron-ſtone. Vegetable impreſſions have alſo been obſerved upon the pyrites of the Hawkhead coal *.

Huſbandry.—The huſbandry of this pariſh, as of all the weſt of Scotland, was, about the middle of this century, in a moſt unproſperous ſtate. The indigent circumſtances of the farmers, their indolent habits, the want of roads, of wheel-carriages, and proper implements of huſbandry, all conſpired to obſtruct the improvement of the ſoil. Till about 1770, lime, coal, grain, &c. were generally conveyed on horſe-back. The old ſervitudes of carriages, kain labour, thirlage, &c. ſtill exiſted, with many practices diſcouraging to the farmer, and ſtrongly marking the languid ſtate of agriculture. The ſpirit of improvement, however, which, about that time, appeared in Scotland, reached Renfrewſhire; and a very favourable change has now taken place. The introduction of artificial graſſes, and the culture of potatoes, have produced a more diligent and accurate huſbandry, and baniſhed the pernicious diſtinction of croft and outfield †. Before 1766, there was ſcarce any hay ſown; and the natural graſs hay then ſold at 3d. *per* ſtone. The general price of hay, of late years, has been 5 d. or 6 d.; at preſent it is no leſs than 9 d. Potatoes, about 40 or 50 years ago, were brought in boats from Kintyre to Paiſley market. About 30 years ago, farmers

* The particulars relative to the mineralogy of the pariſh have been chiefly communicated by the ingenious Mr John Wilſon, factor to the Earl of Glaſgow.

† The diſtinction between croft and outfield prevailed very generally in the old and imperfect huſbandry of Scotland. The *croft*, conſiſting of a few acres neareſt the farm-houſe, was perpetually in crop, and received the whole manure of the farm. The *outfield* was the open paſture land, which was occaſionally plowed in patches for oats till they were exhauſted, and then left to reſt.

mers began pretty generally to cultivate them in the field. No crops, it is probable, have proved more profitable to the farmer than theſe.—The ſcheme of farming moſt commonly followed is,—oats out of lee,—beans and peaſe,—barley with clovers and graſs ſeeds. After one crop of hay, the field is generally paſtured for three or four years, and then broke up with the oats. Little wheat is ſown, but rather more of late than formerly. Rye, flax, and turnip, are but very little cultivated; hemp not at all. Oats are ſown in March, more generally in April: Barley from about the 20th of May to the 10th of June: Wheat in September or October, either after fallow, after potatoes, or out of lee. Lime is commonly applied upon the lee for the oats; dung and manure to barley and wheat. The old Scots plough is generally uſed, many farmers having a prejudice againſt the chain-plough, as leſs fit to overcome the impediments to tillage with which much of the ſoil in this neighbourhood abounds. It has, however, of late been introduced with ſucceſs, with the improvement of a caſt-iron mould-board. The crop, in general, is got in in September and October; ſometimes, as was the caſe this ſeaſon, (1791) not till the beginning of November. In 1781, it was all in in Auguſt, and was one of the beſt known. In 1782, the harveſt was not finiſhed till the very end of November; and, during that month, there were conſiderable falls of ſnow.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 11,944 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scots; the real rent 9700 l. Sterling, belonging to 30 landed proprietors, 15 of whom poſſeſs each above 100 l. Scots of valuation. The rent of the beſt arable land is about 2 guineas *per* acre; ſomething more in the immediate neighbourhood of Paiſley. The beſt paſture ground brings about 30 s. *per* acre. Lands of inferior quality from 12 to 20 s.; and the high

high paſture ground about 5 s. Garden grounds around the town let at about 5 l. *per* acre. Till within theſe few years paſt, a great proportion of the garden-ſtuffs uſed in Paiſley was brought from Glaſgow. The number of farms ſeems rather diminiſhing, but not in any great degree. Their extent is, in general, from 40 to 100 acres. Few farmers pay more than 120 l. *per annum* of rent; the moſt of them about 50 l. or 60 l. All of them are ſufficiently ſenſible of the advantages of an incloſed farm, and willingly pay 7½ *per cent.* to the proprietor for money laid out in that ſpecies of improvement. In conſequence of this, the pariſh is all incloſed either with hedges or ſtone dykes.

Farmers.—Though the riſe of rents has been great, moſt of them having been doubled within the laſt 30 years, yet the farmers are more independent; they pay their rents more regularly, live better, and are better cloathed than formerly, the effect, no doubt, of a more vigorous and ſucceſsful huſbandry. Still, however, they are far, very far from enjoying the comforts of life in the degree to which ſuch an induſtrious and valuable order of men are entitled. The prices of grain, their chief commodity, do not riſe; and if, in conſequence of the greater wealth and population which the manufactures have introduced, their cheeſe, butter, and eggs, bring a higher price, this is probably more than counterbalanced by another effect of the ſame cauſe, the immoderate riſe upon ſervants wages. A little more regard to the intereſt of the farmer will not, perhaps, be found ſo very inconſiſtent with that of the manufacturer as ſeems to have been imagined of late, when all this part of the country was in a flame during the dependance of the corn-bill, the operation of which not one in a thouſand underſtood. The number

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of farmers in the pariſh is about 140; of ploughs, 148; horſes, 507.

Servitudes.—The ancient ſervitudes, ſo oppreſſive and harraſſing to the farmer, are almoſt entirely aboliſhed. The only one of any conſequence that remains is that of thirlage. The Abbey Mill exacts from moſt of the lands thirled to it a multure of the one and twentieth peck, beſides dues to the ſervants of the Mill. This Mill, let by the abbot and convent about A. D. 1500 for four chalders eleven bolls of meal, and one chalder malt, yearly, pays at preſent a rent of 432 l. Another mill in the neighbourhood lets at 220 l.

Manufactures.—The manufactures carried on in this pariſh are, the weaving of ſilk gauze, muſlins, lawns, cotton ſtuffs, and thread gauze, in all their varieties; thread making, cotton ſpinning, bleaching, callicoe printing; the making of candles, white ſoap, black ſoap, and ſtarch. An account of the riſe, progreſs, preſent ſtate, and produce of the principal manufactures, is communicated from the town of Paiſley. We ſubjoin their preſent ſtate in this pariſh.

In the various weaving branches there were employed at Whitſunday 1791, in the ſuburbs of Paiſley, 1108 looms, which, added to 2494 employed in the town, gives 3602 in all. But it is to be obſerved, that the extent to which the weaving branches are carried on by the manufacturers in Paiſley, is not to be judged of from the number of looms in the town and ſuburbs. Beſides about 150 in the country part of the pariſh, there are great numbers employed by them in the villages of Nielſtoun, Bar-head, Beith, Dalry, Kilwinning, &c. &c. In 1744, when all the buſineſs was confined to the town and ſuburbs, there were 867 looms at work.—The thread making employs 9 mills, which, added

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to 128 employed in Paiſley, makes 137 in all. The number in 1744 was 93. The ſpinning of cotton was introduced into this pariſh in 1783. The principal ſeat of that manufacture is at Johnſtoun, a neat and regularly built village about three miles weſt from Paiſley, upon the eſtate of Mr Houſton of Johnſtoun. The feuing of that village was begun in 1782, and it contained at Whitſunday laſt 293 families, or 1434 ſouls. There are five companies eſtabliſhed in it for cotton ſpinning. Two of theſe carry on their principal operations by water-machinery. In the two mills employed in them, there are going at preſent 11,672 ſpindles; but, when the whole machinery in both ſhall be compleated, there will be 22,572. The number of perſons, young and old, at preſent employed in both mills is 660. There are beſides about 120 ſpinning Jeenies employed throughout the pariſh; but the number is daily increaſing; and, when the machinery is compleated which the buildings already erected are calculated to contain, there will be about 150 Jeenies, excluſive of thoſe in the two great mills. The number of perſons employed in this branch at preſent is, in all, about 1020.

It is painful to think, that a manufacture which gives employment to ſo many hands, and which may be a ſource of great wealth to individuals, may be productive of very unhappy effects upon both the health and morals of the children employed in it. This there is ſome reaſon to apprehend. The numbers that are brought together, eſpecially in the larger mills, the confinement, the breathing of an air loaded with the duſt and downy particles of the cotton, and contaminated with the effluvia of rancid oil riſing from the machinery, muſt prove hurtful, in a high degree, to the delicate and tender lungs of children. Add to this, that mills which produce the water-twiſt are kept going day and night; and children muſt be had who are willing to work through

the

the night, and ſleep during the day. Tempted by the wages, parents ſend their children to this employment at a very early age, when they have got little or no education; and the cloſe confinement deprives them of the opportunity of acquiring more. Ignorance, diſeaſe, and mortality, are but too likely to prove the effects of this manufacture, if carried on by unfeeling and ſelfiſh men. The characters of the gentlemen engaged in it in this neighbourhood give reaſon to hope, that every method will be employed which humanity and good ſenſe can ſuggeſt to prevent theſe evils.

The bleaching buſineſs in this pariſh is carried on to a very conſiderable extent. There are 10 fields for whitening muſlins and lawns, and about as many for thread, almoſt wholly employed by the manufacturers in Paiſley. About 300 perſons are at work in this branch of buſineſs, of whom about 240 are women, who are hired for the ſeaſon.

A ſoap and candle manufacture pays about 2000 l. of duty *per annum* to Government, and has, in ſome years, paid upwards of 3000 l. A black and hard ſoap manufacture, 4500 l. *per annum*. The ſtarch manufacture is but lately eſtabliſhed.

The diſtillery buſineſs is to be mentioned under this head; it has for ſome time paſt been carried on to a great extent, and the ſpirit manufactured in great perfection. A conſiderable quantity of it is exported, but too much of it is conſumed at home. Dram drinking is common; alehouſes numerous. They are the reſort of the vagrant, the idle, and the profligate; they gradually become a ſnare to the ſober and induſtrious, and are producing the worſt effects upon the health, the morals, and domeſtic comfort of the people. This growing evil might, in ſome meaſure, be ſtopped, by limiting the number of alehouſes, and impoſing ſome reſtraints as to the

hours during which they ſhould be kept open. The juſtices have power to do ſo. The ſteady exertion of theſe powers is what is wanting.

There has for ſome years paſt been a very conſiderable importation of goods from the Baltic. The many and large buildings erecting for the cotton ſpinning have produced a great demand for wood and iron; the bleaching and ſoap-making, for tallow and aſhes.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—Oat-meal, beſt quality, 17 s. 4 d. *per* boll; milk cow, 8 l.; beef and mutton, 6 d. *per* lib.; chicken, 6 d.; hen, 1 s. 6 d.; freſh butter, 10 d.; cheeſe, 4½ d.; eggs, *per* dozen, 5 d. to 9 d.; ſalmon, *per* lib. 6 d. to 16 d.; potatoes, *per* boll, 10 s.; day-labourer, 16 d. to 18 d.; maſon, 2 s. to 2 s. 3 d.; maid ſervant, half year, 2 l.; beſt farm ſervant, yearly, 10 l.; an induſtrious weaver will make from 25 s. to 30 s. *per* week; a man at bleaching from 6 s. to 9 s.; a woman from 4 s. 6 d. to 9 s.

Medium prices of the beſt oat-meal for 28 years paſt.

1762 to 1768,	L. 0	16	8
1769 — 1775,	0	16	5 7/7
1776 — 1782,	0	15	7 3/7
1783 — 1789,	0	16	5 1/7

Thus it appears, that, though the price of proviſions is high, the price of labour bears its full proportion to it, and enables the labourer to provide ſufficiently for his family. A journeyman-weaver in Paiſley that is moderately induſtrious and oeconomical, to which character, indeed, there are but too many exceptions, can bring up his family with eaſe, and afford to live in a manner far above that of very decent farmers. Children can have employment at the age of nine or ten. The proſpect of a family, and its attendant expences, is no diſcouragement to marriage: Hence, in general, they

marry

marry young; and probably both births and marriages will be found to bear as high a proportion to the number of inhabitants in this as in moſt diſtricts.

	Families.	*Souls.*
Population in 1695, - -	435	
——— in 1755, - - -		2509
——— in 1781, - - -	1536	
——— in 1791, - - -	2255	10792
In the country part - -	870	4689
In the ſuburbs of the town -	1385	6103
The numbers in Paiſley town being	3232	13800
The total of town and ſuburbs, without the country part, was at Whitſunday 1791 - - - -	4617	19903

Since Whitſunday 1791, when the numbers ſtood as above, there has been an addition of ſome hundreds to the town and ſuburbs.

Of the above number 10,792, the preſent population of the pariſh, there are 5259 males, and 5533 females. If the proportion of females appear large, it is to be aſcribed to the number of women employed in the bleaching buſineſs, which is the reaſon alſo why, in ſome of the diſtricts, the number of ſouls is ſo great in proportion to the families, the perſons employed in the field being reckoned part of the bleacher's family.

There are 4197 perſons below 15 years of age, 6455 between 15 and 70, and 140 above 70. In the ſuburbs, there is, above the age of 70, one in 84.76; in the country, one in 68.95.

In 579 families, a portion of the country part of the pariſh, there are 48 batchelor houſekeepers, and 531 married couples. Among theſe, there have been 2211 births. The average of

births,

births, therefore, to each married couple is 4.16. In 1385 families in the ſuburbs, there are 111 batchelor houſekeepers, and 1274 married couples. Among theſe there have been 5470 births. The average to each married couple is 4.29.

The number of ſouls to each family in the country is 5.38; to each family in the town and ſuburbs, is 4.31. In the year 1744, this laſt was only 4.01, a change to be aſcribed probably to families keeping a greater number of ſervants now than formerly.

Of ſervants, houſehold and labouring, male and female, there are 970. This number includes the perſons employed in the bleachfields. Excluding theſe, there may be about 415 houſehold, and 255 labouring ſervants.

The Births and Marriages for the laſt 50 years are:

Period.	*Births.*	*Marriages.*
1741 to 1750,	669	177
1751 — 1760,	932	348
1761 — 1770,	1179	399
1771 — 1780,	1561	590
1781 — 1790,	3109	987
1791,	405	132

The proportion between the births of laſt year and whole population is as one to 27.14; and between the marriages and population as one to 81.75.

The Deaths in this pariſh cannot be accurately aſcertained, the inhabitants in the Town and Abbey pariſhes burying indiſcriminately in the ſeveral church-yards. But the whole number of burials in the two pariſhes during the laſt 15 years is as follows:

1777,	335	1779,	306	1781,	358
1778,	273	1780,	404	1782,	360

1783,

1783,	534	1786,	590	1789,	487
1784,	411	1787,	504	1790,	600
1785,	350	1788,	443	1791,	599

The inhabitants of the two pariſhes amounting to 24,592; therefore the proportion between the deaths of laſt year and the population over the whole diſtrict of town and country, is as one to 40.98.

In the ten years, 1771 —— 1780, the deaths to the births over the whole diſtrict are as one to 1.46. In the ten years, 1781 —— 1790, the deaths to the births are as one to 1.54.

To a place furniſhing ſuch variety of employment, there will be a conſiderable influx of inhabitants from other parts of the country. There are a few from England, more from Ireland, a great number from Ayrſhire, and probably ſtill more from the Highlands. Their numbers have not been aſcertained. If they may be judged of from the degree in which the actual population exceeds the annual births multiplied by 26, there will be about 260 in the Abbey pariſh, and 930 in the town.

In the enumeration that has been made of this pariſh, 1770 perſons are marked as ſeceding from the eſtabliſhed Church. If thoſe only are reckoned Seceders who have themſelves made choice of their religious profeſſion, the number will be conſiderably fewer. If *all* the children of ſeceding parents are to be counted Seceders, the numbers will be ſomewhat more. In this laſt manner were the returns from the ſeveral diſtricts in this pariſh *generally* made. The above number includes diſſenters of every denomination: They are moſtly Burghers, Antiburghers, and members of the Relief Congregations. There are two ſects of Independents, ſome Cameronians, a very few of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion, and perhaps two or three Papiſts. The Burgher-Seceders, and the

the two ſects of Independents, have each a place of meeting in the pariſh.

Church and School.—The ſtipend of this pariſh was originally 16 chalders of meal; but, in 1641, Mr Calvert, then miniſter, agreed to give to a ſecond, or colleague miniſter, five chalders, and "that according to the act of the High Commiſſion," and one chalder provided the entrant ſhould be agreeable to the preſbytery, the pariſh, and himſelf. Several augmentations have been made to the original ſtipend of this charge; ſo that now it conſiſts of eight chalders of meal, 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling of money, and 4 l. 3 s. 4 d. for communion elements. There is no houſe or glebe belongs to it. The ſtipend of the firſt charge is ten chalders of meal, 4 l. 13 s. 4 d. for communion elements, with a manſe and glebe. The glebe lets for 10 l. The manſe was built in 1712, has had ſeveral repairs, got a pretty complete one in 1783, and is now a tolerably commodious houſe, though inferior to ſome manſes lately built in the neighbourhood. The Marquis of Abercorn is patron of both livings.

The ſchoolmaſter of the town of Paiſley was, before the disjunction of the town, conſidered as the pariſh ſchoolmaſter. Since that time, there has been no eſtabliſhed ſchoolmaſter in the pariſh, though there are many private teachers and well frequented ſchools.

Abbey.—A particular account of the Abbey of Paiſley would fill many pages. It was founded as a priory for monks of the order of Clugni about the year 1160 by Walter great Steward of Scotland. It was afterwards raiſed to the rank of an abbacy; and the lands belonging to it were by Robert II. erected into a regality, under the juriſdiction of the abbot. After the Reformation, the abbacy was ſeculari-

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zed by the Pope in favour of Lord Claud Hamilton, third ſon of the Duke of Chatelherault, in reward of his ſteady adherence to the cauſe of Queen Mary; and, in 1588, it was by the King and Parliament erected into a temporal lordſhip, and Lord Claud was created Lord Paiſley. The revenues of the abbacy were very conſiderable: They conſiſted of the teinds of twenty-eight different pariſhes, with the property of the lordſhips of Paiſley, of Kilpatrick in Dunbartonſhire, and of Monkton in Ayrſhire, extending each to a hundred merk land; and the forty pound land of Glen in Lochwinnoch; with the lands of Achengown, Grange, &c. and a conſiderable detached property in different parts of the kingdom. All this property, with the patronage of the ſeveral churches, fell to Lord Claud Hamilton, laſt abbot of Paiſley. It continued in that family till 1653, when his grandſon James Earl of Abercorn ſold the lordſhip of Paiſley to the Earl of Angus, who next year ſold it to William Lord Cochran, Kilpatrick to Sir John Hamiltoun of Orbiſtoun, Monktoun to Lord Bargenny, and Glen to Lord Semple and others. Great part of the lordſhip of Paiſley was, at different times, ſold off by the family of Dundonald; and what remained of it was in 1764 repurchaſed by the late Earl of Abercorn. The fabric of the Abbey owed much of its magnificence to Abbot George Schaw, who, about 1484, enlarged and beautified the building, ſurrounding the church, the precincts of the convent, the gardens, and a ſmall deer-park, with a noble wall of hewn free-ſtone. The Abbey was, after the Reformation, ſucceſſively the ſeat of the Earls of Abercorn and Dundonald. The late Earl of Dundonald demoliſhed the ancient gateway, and, by feuing off the immediately adjoining grounds for building, entirely changed the appearance of the place. As it was thus rendered totally unfit for a family reſidence, it has ſince that time been let out into ſeparate dwellings, and

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is now in a very mean and almoſt ruinous ſtate. The wall ſtood almoſt entire till 1781, when the garden being feued off for building upon, by the late Earl of Abercorn, the wall was ſold to the feuers, and the ſtones of it employed in their houſes.

Poor.—The poor of the pariſh are numerous, a neceſſary conſequence of the extenſive manufactures, and of the ready employment afforded to labourers of every deſcription. In 1776-77-78, the ſum expended for the relief of the poor amounted, on an average, to 71 l. 11 s. yearly. In 1779-80-81, to 85 l. 7 s. In 1782-83-84, to 136 l. 12 s. In 1785-86-87, to 238 l. 3 s. In 1788-89-90, to 381 l. And, in 1791, to 440 l. 3 s. Of this ſum 284 l. was paid to the poor upon the pariſh roll; about 46 l. was diſtributed in occaſional charity; about 74 l. was applied for the maintenance of foundlings and deſerted children; and 36 l. for clothing, houſe rents, ſchool wages, burials, and ſuch incidental expences. The ſmall pittance allowed in the beginning of theſe periods to the inrolled poor, in a place where all the articles of living are dear, could ſcarcely be called an aliment. It was from 2 s. to 10 s. *per* quarter; the average, to each perſon, being about 5 s. At preſent, the allowance is from 4 s. to 26 s. *per* quarter; the average being 12 s. 7 d. The number of inrolled poor is between 90 and 100.

Till 1785, the poor were ſupported by the collections at the church door; by the intereſt of ſome donations in the management of the kirk ſeſſion; by the dues for the proclamation of banns of marriage, and a ſmall ſum ariſing from the uſe of the mort cloths. At that period it was propoſed to put a ſtop to the practice of vagrant begging, and as for that end it was neceſſary to provide for the ſupport of the poor in their houſes, a parochial aſſeſſment was reſolved upon,

a meaſure the more reaſonable and neceſſary in this pariſh, as among the many affluent landholders belonging to it, only one or two who reſided within the pariſh, did ever contribute any thing for the maintainance of the poor. The firſt aſſeſſment was 152 l. from which ſum it ſoon roſe to 415 l.; but this, like other taxes, is not completely effective. It has ſtood at that ſum for the laſt three years; and if the attention that has hitherto been given to the management be continued, and the ſame care taken to admit no improper objects on charity, it is hoped there will be no neceſſity, for ſome time, to impoſe a greater. The collections amount to about 80 l. yearly.; the dues of proclamation 18 l.; mort-cloths, 11 l.; and the intereſts of money, with a trifling ſum ariſing from fines impoſed by the kirk ſeſſion, about 15 l. The produce of the whole funds is thrown into one ſum, and diſtributed by the kirk ſeſſion, and 21 overſeers, choſen equally from the heritors, farmers, and houſeholders. A ſmall ſalary is paid for collecting the aſſeſſment, and paying out the money, the only expence that attends the management. The mode of aſſeſſment and diſtribution is ſo ſimilar to that in the pariſh of Jedburgh, that the minute differences are not worth noticing.

Beſides theſe parochial funds for the relief of the poor, there is a conſiderable ſubſcription yearly to the Paiſley Diſpenſary, an inſtitution that has ſubſiſted ſince 1786, and been attended with very happy effects among the lower claſſes of the induſtrious inhabitants of this place. The yearly amount of the ſubſcription to that charity, from the town and ſuburbs, has been about 130 l.

Various ſocieties are formed among the journeymen weavers, for the relief of thoſe members who, by age or ſickneſs, are incapacitated for work. Sunday ſchools, though upon a ſmall ſcale, have been lately eſtabliſhed, both in the

town of Paiſley and Abbey pariſh: Inſtitutions that have become highly neceſſary ſince the introduction of the cotton ſpinning, which engages children before they have got almoſt any education of any kind, and which occupies them from morning to night throughout the week.

Occaſional collections are made for the poor in ſeaſons of ſcarcity, or times of particular diſtreſs. And to the honour of the more affluent inhabitants of the town and Abbey pariſh, let it be acknowledged, that every plan to ſupply the wants, or mitigate the diſtreſſes of the indigent or deſtitute, has always met with their hearty concurrence, and moſt liberal ſupport.

NUM-

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF NEW OR EAST KILPATRICK.

(Counties of Dunbarton and Stirling.—Preſbytery of Dunbarton.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE SYM.

Origin of the Name.

THIS pariſh is called New, or Eaſt Kilpatrick, relatively to Old, or Weſt Kilpatrick, with which it formed one pariſh till the year 1649, when a diviſion and new erection took place. The name Kilpatrick, *Cella Patricii*, common to both, is derived from Patrick, the tutelary ſaint of Ireland, whom legends and tradition make a native of Kilpatrick. A writer quoted in *Britan. Eccles. Primordia*, ſays, "Natale patricii ſolum inter caſtrum Dunbritannicum et civitatem Glaſcuenſem poſitum; accepto ab ipſo nomine Kirkpatrick vel Kilpatrick;" adding, that his father was a preſbyter, and grandfather a deacon, and that he was carried captive with his two ſiſters into Ireland, and ſold to one of the petty princes of that country, who employed him as a ſwine herd. But a local tradition informs us, that he was compelled to leave his native country by the malice and reſentment of the Devil, who, provoked at his ſanctity and ſucceſs in preaching the goſpel, ſent a band of witches againſt him; that the weird-ſiſters fell upon him ſo furiouſly, that he was forced to ſeek ſafety by flight; that finding a little

boat

boat near the mouth of the Clyde, he went into it and ſet off for Ireland; that they ſeeing it impoſſible to purſue him, for it ſeems they were not of that claſs of witches who can ſkim along the waters in an egg ſhell, or ride through the air on a broom ſtick, tore a huge piece of a rock from a neighbouring hill, and hurled it, with deadly purpoſe, after him; but that, miſſing their aim, the ponderous maſs fell harmleſs, and afterwards, with a little addition from art, formed the Caſtle of Dunbarton. This ſurely is ſufficient proof, that Kilpatrick both derives its name from, and gave birth to, the celebrated ſaint of Ireland.

Number and Rent of Farms.—There are two large graſs farms, which pay about 200 l. of rent each. Of corn farms there are 6, at 100 l. or a little above—about 50 between 30 l. and 100 l.—and above 40 below 30 l.; but among the laſt are included a few cottage lands, each ſufficient only to maintain a cow. Almoſt all thoſe above 30 l. and ſome alſo of thoſe below it, employ a plough and 3 or 4 horſes; and two of the largeſt employ two ploughs each. All theſe are excluſive of the lands occupied by the greater proprietors themſelves, and by the tackſmen of bleachfields and mills. Leaſes are commonly for 19 years. The average rent of arable land is about 15 s. *per* acre; there is ſome at 30 s. and a good deal below 12 s. Every new leaſe brings an addition of rent to the landlord; and hitherto few of the tenants have reaſon to complain. In general they live much more comfortably, are better fed, better clothed, and better lodged, than when they paid but the half of their preſent rent. The raiſing of the rent has ſtimulated their induſtry, and their induſtry is repaid in the enjoyment of more of the comforts of life. And the generous landlord, it is to be hoped, will never rapaciouſly extort from the huſbandman all that is not neceſſary

neceſſary to a bare ſubſiſtence. The farmers form the moſt induſtrious, ſober, and uſeful claſs of men, and deſerve more than any other liberal encouragement.

Mode of Farming, &c.—Though the farmers in this pariſh have, of late years, made conſiderable improvement in the knowledge and practice of agriculture, they ſtill adhere pretty much to the old method; the ſtubborn nature of the ſoil, they ſay, and probably with truth, does not wholly admit of the new.

The crops are wheat, oats, barley, peaſe, beans, potatoes, turnip, flax, and clover and rye-graſs. Of wheat, very little is now ſown, a ſucceſſion of unfavourable ſeaſons having diſcouraged the culture of it. Peaſe, beans, flax, and turnip, are alſo ſown in but ſmall quantities. The principal crops are oats, barley, potatoes, and clover and rye-graſs.

Till lately, very little land, except for fallow, was plowed before the month of January. It is a general opinion among the farmers here, that, unleſs the ſoil be dry, and free from tough-rooted weeds, winter plowing is prejudicial to the crop, wet clay land being apt to cake even after froſt, and tough or dry-rooted weeds, which are not eaſily deſtroyed by froſt, ſprouting before the corn is ſown, and therefore choking it the more readily after it is come up. They begin now, however, to give leſs weight to theſe objections.

The greater part of the farmers plow with three horſes, ſome with four, and but very few with two only.

The uſual time of ſowing wheat is October; oats, peaſe, and beans, from the beginning of March to the end of April; and barley, clover, and rye-graſs, from the beginning to the middle of May. Potatoes are planted about the middle of April; in large fields with the plough, in ſmall plots with the dibble.

Hay

Hay harveſt begins about the middle of June; and corn harveſt ſometimes about the middle of Auguſt, though commonly later, and continues often till the beginning of November. From 200 to 300 ſtone *per* acre is reckoned a good crop of hay, and of oats and barley 7 or 8 bolls.

A few years ago, a club was formed by the farmers in this and other pariſhes in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, for the purpoſe of promoting and diffuſing the knowledge of agriculture, which has probably had a very conſiderable effect: And, with a view of exciting emulation among their plowmen, they have begun to have annual plowing matches, at which premiums are given to thoſe that excel.

Number of Horſes, &c.—There are about 360 horſes, 1450 black cattle, and 150 ſheep. Of the black cattle, a conſiderable number are bought lean, in the Highlands, and fattened for the butchers. The price, when bought, from 2 l. 10 s. to 5 l.; when ſold, after being fed about a year, from 4 l. 10 s. to 8 l.

Air, Diſeaſes, &c.—The air is reckoned very wholeſome. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to the pariſh. Beſides the ſmall pox and chincough, the moſt common are fevers, conſumptions, hyſterics, and diarrhoeas, which, however, are not frequent. The ſmall-pox is leſs deſtructive now than formerly, from the more common practice of inoculation. The prejudices againſt that moſt ſucceſsful improvement in the medical art, though ſtill very prevalent, begin to wear off.

There are many inſtances of longevity. Within the laſt year, there died one man in his 95th year, who was able, within a few days of his death, to walk in a forenoon above a mile to a neighbouring farm, and return; another man in his 89th year; and a woman in her 91ſt: And there is now

living

living a man near 93, who reaps and threſhes his own corn, thatches his own houſe, and walks to Glaſgow, 5½ miles diſtant, and returns the ſame day.

Villages.—The only conſiderable village is Millguy, which contains about 200 inhabitants, who are moſtly employed as bleachers, printers, and pencillers of cloth.

Bleachfields.—There are ſix bleachfields, of which two are for printed cloths only, and one partly. All theſe together employ about 220 people.

Mills.—There are four oat mills, two barley mills, one ſnuff mill, and one paper mill. The paper mill employs three vats, and about 25 workmen. The kinds of paper made are poſt, foolſcap, pot, and lappings; and the quantity about 2500 l. worth *per annum*.

Coal and Lime Works.—There are two colleries in the pariſh, one at Knightſwood, and the other at Culloch, which have both been wrought beyond the memory of any perſon alive.—The coal at Knightſwood is light and friable, very little ſulphureous, does not cake, burns quickly, and leaves a ſmall quantity of white aſhes. In digging for this coal, the ſtrata met with are, blue clay; blaize; hard white free-ſtone; blaize, mixed with what the workmen call grey-plies, probably a ſpecies of *ſchiſtus cinereus*; ſpungy white free-ſtone; iron-ſtone three inches thick; blaize, and grey-plies; then the coal three feet four inches thick, with ſix inches of ſtone in the middle. Beſides the main coal, there are two thinner ſeams in the ſtrata of blaize above, not worth working. The main coal lies at various depths, from 18 to 50 fathoms, according to the height of the ground, the dip of the coal, and the

the interruption of troubles.—The dip is from north-west to south-east. The price of a cart of coals of 12 cwt. at this work is 2s. 6 d.; and about 26,000 carts are sold annually. The coal is nearly exhausted in Knightswood lands, but it extends through those in the neighbourhood. This colliery employs about 60 men and boys, and 20 horses.

At Culloch the coal is more heavy, less inflammable, and considerably sulphureous. The small coal cakes strongly; the great leaves a slag, with a great deal of brown ashes. It is, however, a good strong coal, and, mixed with that of Knightswood, makes an excellent fire. The strata here are clay; blaize, with several seams of ironstone through it, some 4 inches thick; limestone, from 3 to 4½ feet thick; then the coal, from 4½ to 5 feet thick. The price of the cart of 12 cwt. is 2 s.; and about 13,000 carts are put out in a year, a great part of which is used in burning the limestone. The depth of the coal is from 13 to 36 fathoms, and the dip from north-west to south-east.

At Culloch is also the only limework in the parish. The limestone is wrought after the coal has been taken out from below it. It is burnt in draw-kilns, of which two, capable of burning each 20 chalders a-day have been lately erected. The lime is of an excellent quality, and is sold at 10s. *per* chalder of 32 wheat bushels. About 3000 chalders are made annually. At this place the lime and coal works together employ about 70 men and 20 horses, and they are both on the increase.

Heritors, Valuation, and Rental.—The parish is divided among nine greater, and eight smaller proprietors. Of the former, five reside constantly or occasionally; all the latter constantly. The valued rent of the whole is 5311 l. 16s. 2d. Scots, and the real rent may be about 5000 l. Sterling.

Church,

Church, &c.—The Duke of Montroſe is patron of the pariſh. The miniſter's ſtipend conſiſts of 70 bolls $3\frac{2}{12}$ pecks of meal, 10 bolls of bear, 45 l. 16 s. 8 d. Sterling money, a manſe, and a glebe of 4 acres.

Schools.—There is a pariſh ſchool, with a ſalary of 100 l. Scots. The fees are, for Engliſh, 1 s. 6 d.; for writing, 2 s.; and for arithmetic, 3 s. *per* quarter. Poor ſcholars are paid for by the ſeſſion out of the poor's funds. The number of ſcholars is, at an average, about 40. Beſides this there is another, attended by an equal number of ſcholars, but without a ſalary, at the village of Millguy; and a houſe is now building for a third in the north part of the pariſh. There is alſo one in the borders of Old Kilpatrick for the accommodation of the eaſt part of that, and the weſt part of this pariſh, to the ſupport of which the ſeſſions of both pariſhes contribute a ſmall ſum annually.

Price of Labour, &c.—The wages of ſervants living in their maſter's family are, a good plowman, 12 l.; a common farm-ſervant, 9 l. or 10 l.; and a maid-ſervant, 3 l. or 4 l. a-year. Thoſe of day-labourers employed conſtantly, 10 d. but more generally 1 s.; of day-labourers employed occaſionally, 14 d. in winter, and 18 d. in ſummer; of maſons, from 20 d. to 2 s.; and of wrights, 18 d. to 20 d. The price of labour has riſen greatly within theſe four or five years, from the great demand for the public works and manufactures carrying on in this part of the country.

The price of all kinds of proviſions is nearly the ſame as in Glaſgow.

Poor.—The number of poor on the pariſh-roll at the laſt general diſtribution in December 1791 was 19. Of theſe,

5 receive ſupply regularly, from 3 s. to 5 s. each a month; and, beſides this, 5 s. 10 s. or 15 s. at each of two half yearly diſtributions; the reſt at theſe general diſtributions only, or as occaſion requires.

The funds are, the collections at the church on Sundays, and other days of public worſhip, the intereſt of 115 l. in bank, and the intereſt of 40 l. part of a late donation, on bond to the ſeſſion. Theſe funds have been hitherto ſufficient to ſupport all the poor of the pariſh in a very competent manner, and none of them are allowed to beg.

There is no way of ſupporting the poor ſo eaſy, and ſo little expenſive, as from the collections at church. Aſſeſſments are attended with more trouble, and are conſiderably more expenſive; for many claim to be admitted on the poor's roll when the poor are ſupported in this way, who, in the ſame circumſtances, would make greater exertions to ſupport themſelves before they applied for ſupply out of the funds provided in the other way. Aſſeſſments, however, are certainly the moſt equitable method of ſupporting the poor. When heritors, either from non-reſidence or unfrequent attendance upon public worſhip, contribute nothing, or do not contribute their juſt proportion; and when, from a ſpirit of ſectarianiſm, many others withdraw from the eſtabliſhed Church, and alſo contribute nothing, it is often impoſſible, and always unfair and unreaſonable, that thoſe only who do attend the church ſhould bear the whole burden of the poor.

Population.—The population by Dr Webſter's table in 1755 was 1390. The number of inhabitants, young and old, in the year 1788, when an exact liſt was taken, was 1664; to which, from the erection of two of the bleachfields ſince that time, and other cauſes of increaſe, as many may perhaps be

be now added as will make the number 1700. From the regiſter of baptiſms about the time of the Revolution, ſuppoſing the proportion between the baptiſms and population the ſame then as at preſent, the number of inhabitants appears to have been at that time 1460; ſo that, in the ſpace of a hundred years, the population has increaſed about 240, that is, by about the number of perſons employed at the bleachfields and paper mill. That it has not increaſed more is owing to the conjunction of ſmall farms, and the deſtruction of cottages. The number of males is to that of females nearly as 10 to 9. The average number of marriages for the laſt 10 years is 16, of baptiſms for the ſame time 57, and of burials for the laſt 9 years 28. The rule given for finding the population of a diſtrict, by multiplying the births by 26, or the deaths by 36, ſeems not to be well founded.

Canal, &c.—The great canal between Forth and Clyde paſſes through the ſouth part of the pariſh. It is carried over the river Kelvin by a ſtately aqueduct bridge, planned by Mr Whitworth, and executed by Mr Gibb. The foundation of the bridge was laid June 15. 1787, and it was finiſhed in June 1790. The length is 350 feet, the breadth 57, of which the canal occupies 27½, and the height, from the ſurface of the river to the top of the parapet wall, 57. It ſtands upon 4 arches, each 50 feet wide, and 37 high.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—From the preceding account, it appears that this pariſh enjoys conſiderable advantages: Abundance of coal and lime within itſelf, and to be had eaſily from other places too, by means of the canal; its vicinity to Glaſgow, diſtant only about ſix miles from the middle of the pariſh, where there is a ready market for all kinds of product; plenty of ſtone for building; and rivers proper

proper for mills and bleachfields. The principal disadvantages are, the stubborn nature of a great part of the soil, and the want of good roads. The latter disadvantage, however, will soon be in a great measure removed, two lines of turnpike road being now carrying through the parish, leading from Glasgow, the one to Drymen, and the other to Balfron. If to these were added a good cross road from east to west, there would remain little cause of complaint on this account. The difficulty of procuring dung in sufficient quantity for the land, is also no small disadvantage. The farmers in the south part of the parish, indeed, carry it, but at a very great expence, from Glasgow, Port-Glasgow, and Greenock; but it will not bear the expence of carriage, added to its price, from these places to the north part; so that the farmers there are confined to the quantity made on their farms, which is commonly far from sufficient.

NUM.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF WESTRUTHER.

(County of Berwick.—Preſbytery of Lauder.—Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM SHIELS.

Origin of the Name.

THE village from which this pariſh takes its name was formerly called Wolfſtruther. This name, according to tradition, originated from the number of wolves with which the neighbouring grounds abounded.

Weſtruther was formerly a part of the pariſh of Gordon. It was firſt erected into a ſeparate pariſh about the middle of the laſt century. Upon the application of the heritors, who complained of the diſtance of the church of Gordon, a miniſter was appointed in the year 1647 to a chapel at Baſſandean, in the ſouth ſide of the preſent pariſh. About two years after, for the better accommodation of the north parts of the pariſh, a church was built at the village of Weſtruther, where it ſtill continues. This chapel belonged to the nunnery of Coldſtream. The walls of it ſtill remain, to the height of 12 or 14 feet, and incloſe the burying-ground of the Homes of Baſſandean.

Extent and Situation.—This pariſh is about five miles long, and four miles broad. It lies on the ſouth ſide of that range of

of hills called Lammermuir, by which it is ſeparated from East Lothian. The London road by Coldſtream enters the pariſh from the north, about the 28th mile ſtone from Edinburgh, paſſes through the ſouth-weſt ſide of it for the ſpace of about four miles, and then enters the pariſh of Greenlaw.

Population	in 1755,	591
———	in 1783,	685
———	in 1791,	730

Villages.—The only villages are thoſe of Weſtruther, Wedderly, and Hounſlow. Weſtruther has of late been conſiderably increaſed by a number of houſes built on feus. Each few, along with a houſe and ſmall garden, has generally two or more acres of land to ſupply the family with corn, potatoes, &c.—The village of Wetherly is much diminiſhed within theſe thirty years.—Hounſlow is entirely a new erection. It is ſituated on the London road betwixt the 30th and 31ſt mile ſtones from Edinburgh. The firſt houſe in this village was built in the year 1775. It conſiſts of feus granted by Mr Home of Baſſandean, and contains upwards of 70 ſouls.—As the land in this neighbourhood was within theſe twenty years covered with barren heath, it is perhaps unneceſſary to obſerve, that this village has very much improved the appearance of the country around, as well as raiſed the value of the adjacent grounds.—The feuers in theſe two villages of Weſtruther and Hounſlow have each a privilege of peats for fuel in the moſſes that are next them.—The climate of this pariſh is conſiderably colder than the lower parts of the country. It is, however, remarkably healthy. Perhaps this is, in part, owing to its open and elevated ſituation. There does not appear to be any diſeaſe to which the people are particularly ſubject. Inſtances of longevity are

pretty

pretty frequent. There is juſt now living a woman aged 93; and, within theſe few years, two men died at the age of 95 or 96. Several attain to 80 and upwards. It is worthy of remark, that three miniſters in ſucceſſion, though each above thirty years of age at his admiſſion, ſerved the cure of this pariſh from 1647 to 1782, a period of 135 years.

Soil.—The ſoil is of various qualities. Perhaps there may be one half of the lands in the pariſh not capable of being cultivated to any advantage by the plough. One part of theſe is bog-land, on which grows a kind of coarſe graſs, that is ſometimes paſtured by young cattle; ſometimes it is cut for hay, and is reckoned excellent winter food for cattle that are not of ſufficient age to be fed on turnip. Though a great part of this land has already been drained at conſiderable expence; yet, as this is the only ſpecies of improvement of which it is capable, certainly more ought ſtill to be done to carry off the water, which, in particular places, continues to ſtagnate.

The other part of theſe lands that are not capable of being cultivated with advantage by the plough, conſiſts of ground covered with deep moſs, or which, from the height of its ſituation, even where the ſoil is tolerably good, is not adapted to the raiſing of corn, and conſequently would not pay the expence of improvement by lime, which is the only manure that has been uſed with effect to any extent for bringing in heath lands in this corner of the country.

The other half of the lands in the pariſh may be divided into ſuch as are already cultivated by the plough, and ſuch as are capable of being cultivated in this manner.

The ſoil of theſe lands is, in ſome places, a whitiſh cold clay, which is by no means favourable to the views of the huſbandman. In other places, particularly towards the ſouth

ſide

ſide of the pariſh, the ſoil conſiſts of a reddiſh earth, on a free-ſtone bottom. This earth, where it has been long in cultivation, and often dunged, has become a rich loam, and is excellent for every ſpecies of crop that is adapted to the climate. Where this reddiſh ſoil is not ſo deep and ſtrong, it is inclined to be ſharp and gravelly. This alſo is very fit for cropping, and particularly is well ſuited to the turnip huſbandry, and to the raiſing of white and broad clover.

This and the neighbouring pariſhes have been in a progreſſive ſtate of improvement ever ſince the making of the turnpike-roads, by which there is eaſier acceſs to manure; and the product of the land is carried to market at leſs expence.

The benefit derived from good roads, however, muſt always be partial, and much limited, while the croſs roads continue in the miſerable condition in which they are to be found at preſent not only in this neighbourhood, but alſo in many other places of the country. But, as this ſubject has often of late been under the conſideration of the gentlemen, it is to be hoped that ſome effectual method will ſoon be adopted for correcting an evil that has long been felt and complained of. When by this means the intercourſe between the different pariſhes and the different parts of the ſame pariſh ſhall be rendered more eaſy and expeditious, new vigour will be imparted to that laudable ſpirit of improvement which of late years has ſo much increaſed the intrinſic value of the lands in this county, and rouſed the induſtry of the people to exertions highly beneficial to themſelves and to the community at large.

Among the improvements in huſbandry that have been introduced into this part of the country, none have been attended with more happy and more extenſive effects than the raiſing of turnips and broad clover. As the turnips, from the froſt,

froſt, or from their flying up into ſeed, if the winter be freſh, are often rendered in a great meaſure uſeleſs, long before the return of the graſs, ſome crop that would anſwer for food to the fatting cattle in the ſpring, is more wanted here than in the lower parts of the country, where the froſts are ſeldom ſo ſevere, and where the ſpring ſets in at a more early period.

Early oats ſeem very much adapted to the climate of this pariſh; that ſpecies called red oats, in particular, are found to ſucceed well.—Beſide the dung raiſed in the different farms, the only manure here uſed is lime, which is brought from Lothian, at the diſtance of 17 or 18 miles.

Horſes, Black Cattle, and Sheep.—There are in this pariſh 160 horſes, 700 black cattle, and 5000 ſheep. Conſiderable attention is now paid to the improvement of the breed of ſtock of every kind.—The extent of the different farms is very various. The higheſt may be rented at 260 l. and the loweſt about 20 l. Within theſe 20 years, ſome of the farms have doubled their rents.—The price of labour through all this country is higher, in general, than in the Lothians, and not ſo high as in Northumberland. A man that is hired for the year gets 6 l. 10 s. 7 l. or 7 guineas, along with his victuals. A day-labourer gains 1 s. *per* day, or 8 d. with victuals. In hay time and harveſt he will gain 10 d. or 1 s. with his victuals.—The price of female labour is conſiderably raiſed of late years. This is, in a great meaſure, owing to an additional number of hands being wanted to carry on the operations of huſbandry in its modern improved ſtate. Many of theſe operations are performed by the women fully as well as by the men, ſuch as turnip hoeing, &c. A female ſervant who was hired a few years ago at 30 or 35 s. for the ſummer half year, will now, when employed in works of huſbandry, gain 2 l. 5 s. 2 l. 10 s. or 2 l. 15 s. for the ſame

period. The winter wages are much the ſame as formerly. A woman, when employed by the day in turnip hoeing, gains 6 d. or 8 d. without victuals.

Church and Poor.—The ſtipend was lately augmented, and is, by the new decreet, 83 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, and 21. 10s. for communion elements, beſides the glebe. The miniſter is alſo entitled to ſix days caſting of turf on the lands of Mr Home of Baſſandean.

The poor are ſupported by the weekly collections, amounting to 8 l. or to 10 l. and an aſſeſſment according to the valued rent, which is paid in equal proportions by the proprietors of land and their tenants. The one half of the collections is diſpoſed of by the kirk-ſeſſion for the relief of individuals, or families that have accidentally fallen into diſtreſs, and have not had an opportunity of being received on the roll of enliſted poor, or who perhaps wiſh for nothing more than a little occaſional ſupply, till the recovery of health, or the removal of ſome preſent calamity put it again in their power to ſupport themſelves without being burdenſome to the public.

The money expended yearly in ſupport of the enliſted poor never exceeded 24 l. Sterling till this preſent year, when, from an additional number of poor, it has increaſed to 36 l. This ſum is made up by the remaining half of the collections, the intereſt of 24 l. ſunk for the benefit of the poor, and the aſſeſſment above mentioned. Beſides the 24 l. the intereſt of which goes to the aſſeſſment, there is another ſum of the ſame amount, the intereſt of which is diſpoſed of by the ſeſſion to the relief of occaſional poor.

The higheſt allowance this year to a pauper is 3 l. 7 s. 6 d. the loweſt about 1 l. It is always underſtood, that, if their neceſſities increaſe, the kirk-ſeſſion will be ready to give them

ſome additional ſupply. It is eaſy, however, from the ſmallneſs of the allowance, to ſee that it is only meant as an aſſiſtance. The truth is, the poor uſually live in their own houſes, or in the houſes of ſome of their connections, and are able, in moſt caſes, to do ſomething for themſelves.

The aſſeſſment is laid once in the year by the heritors, who meet for that purpoſe along with the miniſter and kirk-ſeſſion. This meeting is called by an intimation from the pulpit at leaſt ten free days before.

The heritors ſome years ago, inſtead of giving the whole allowance to the poor in money, adopted a plan of giving a conſiderable proportion of it in oat-meal, which cannot be ſo readily perverted from the charitable purpoſe for which it is beſtowed.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF WALSTON.

(County of Lanark.—Preſbytery of Biggar.—Synod of Lothian and Tweedale.)

By the Reverend Mr PATRICK MOLLESON.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

IN the old ſeſſion records, the name of this pariſh is ſometimes written *Welſtoun*, and the tradition of the country people is, that it has its name from a copious ſpring of excellent water in the neighbourhood, called *Walſton-well.* In former times this well was in great repute for its medicinal qualities, and much frequented. The water has no uncommon colour or taſte, but is ſtill ſaid to be an excellent remedy in cutaneous diſeaſes.

Soil, Surface, Climate, &c.—In the high grounds the ſoil is ſhallow and barren, and moſtly covered with heath. In the lower grounds, the ſoil is moſtly a black loam, lying on a deep clay, and tolerably fertile; on the eaſt ſide, it is a black loam lying on gravel. The ſurface, though uneven, is not rocky. The air is exceedingly moiſt, notwithſtanding which the people in general are very healthy. Rheumatiſm is the prevailing diſeaſe. This is perhaps owing in a great meaſure to the following cauſes. The houſes in this part of the country are all exceedingly damp. The windows are, for the moſt

moſt part, glazed, but few of them are made ſo as to open: And the common people univerſally ſleep in cloſe timber beds. Few of them are ſufficiently convinced of the vaſt advantage of having their bed clothes expoſed to the freſh air; or of the danger of ſleeping in a place too much confined. Between this pariſh and Dunſyre runs a ſmall river called the *Medwin*, in which there are a few excellent trout. About two miles to the north-eaſt of this place, part of the Medwin runs off to the Tweed. The reſt of it falls into the Clyde, about 5 miles ſouth-weſt from this. Here the Medwin is ſaid to be about 750 feet above the level of the ſea; and by obſervations made with the barometer, an high hill in this neighbourhood, called Walſton Black Mount, appears to be nearly 800 feet above the level of the Medwin.

Population.—This pariſh was formerly more populous than it is at preſent. From various cauſes, many of the parochial regiſters of marriages, births, and burials, have not been accurately filled up, and conſequently are not much to be truſted. In making out the following abſtract from the ſeſſion records of Walſton, thoſe periods have been choſen in which the records ſeem to have been regularly kept.

Annual average of Births.			Annual average of Marriages.		
From 1680 to 1686 is		10	From 1680 to 1686 is		5
— 1713	1723	14	— 1713	1723	$4\frac{1}{2}$
— 1723	1733	$13\frac{1}{2}$	— 1743	1747	$3\frac{1}{4}$
— 1784	1791	10	— 1784	1791	$3\frac{1}{2}$

The annual average of deaths, from 1784 to 1791, is $5\frac{2}{7}$

The population in 1755 was 479.

The

The number of perſons, under 10 years of age, at preſent is, 102

——————————— from 10 to 20 - - 99

——————————— from 20 to 50 - - 161

——————————— from 50 to 70 - - 52

——————————— above 70 - - - 13

Total, 427

There are three or four perſons about 81 or 82 years of age, but none older. By a liſt, accurately taken in the beginning of January 1791, it appears, that there are in the pariſh at preſent 427 perſons, old and young, of which number 206 are males, and 221 females. They reſide chiefly in two ſcattered villages. In the pariſh there are 140 communicants belonging to the eſtabliſhed Church; 54 to the Relief; 32 to the Antiburghers, and 28 to the Burgher meeting houſe, but no Epiſcopalians nor Roman Catholics; 26 bachelors, and 69 married men and widowers; 15 handycraftſmen; about 130 houſehold ſervants; 11 labouring ſervants, or days wage men; and one ſtudent at the univerſity; 12 farmers, each having a plough of land; and 16 ſmaller tenants, each having a piece of ground, one horſe, and ſome cows. There are 106 inhabited houſes, which gives 4 perſons at an average to each. Large farms, and laying down a great deal of corn lands in graſs; the manufactories in the neighbourhood, ſuch as cotton mills, iron works, &c. and the extenſive buildings carrying on at Edinburgh and Glaſgow, are great drains for ſervants here, and peculiar cauſes of depopulation. The conſequence of this is, that ſervants are become exceedingly ſcarce, and their wages very high. To remedy this, it will be neceſſary for gentlemen and tenants to encourage their ſervants to marry, by giving them a comfortable houſe, a cow's graſs, &c.

Productions,

Productions, &c.—There are few trees in the pariſh, though aſh, plain tree, and various kinds of fir, would thrive very well. The pariſh lies high, and is expoſed to ſevere blaſts of wind; one of the firſt improvements, therefore, which the proprietors ought to ſet about, is to incloſe their grounds with ſtripes and clumps of planting. A little in this way has been done in the neighbourhood, and with great ſucceſs. What has been done in this pariſh has been done with no judgment; and no pains have been beſtowed upon the plants in their infancy. The great ſecrets of planting are, to fence well, to plant thick at firſt, and to weed or thin them judiciouſly, as the plants grow up. To plant a hill, one ſhould plant the baſe of it firſt, and advance upon the hill, as the timber on the lower parts becomes a proper ſhelter for the higher.

In the pariſh there are about 320 black cattle; 960 ſheep, of the black faced kind; and 90 horſes. It contains about 3000 Scotch acres of land; about 2000 are arable, and of theſe 450 are employed annually in raiſing oats, 50 in barley, 15 in potatoes, and 10 in flax. The other 1475 acres of arable, together with about 1000 of heath and marſhy ground, are employed in paſture. The average rent of the beſt arable land is about 25 s.; and of the inferior, about half a crown *per* acre. The valued rent of the pariſh is 1233 l. Scots; and the real rent at preſent about 700 l. Sterl. The Scotch plough is almoſt the only one in uſe. The farmers are only beginning to ſow turnip and artificial graſſes. The pariſh annually exports articles of proviſion, ſuch as butter, cheeſe, fowls, meal, bear, black cattle, and ſheep.

Church, Stipend, &c.—Mr Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath is patron of the pariſh. The ſtipend is 2 chalders of oatmeal, 1 chalder of barley, and 33 l. 6$\frac{8}{12}$ d. Sterling money, includ-

including communion elements. The glebe is one of the worſt in the country; and it ought to be obſerved, that miniſters glebes, in general, are of leſs advantage to them than many people are apt to imagine, as they oblige them to keep more ſervants than the produce of them can maintain. To remedy this, as much land contiguous to the glebe, as, together with the glebe, would be ſufficient work for a man and two horſes, ſhould always be allotted to the miniſter at a moderate rent.

Number of Poor, Parochial Funds, &c.—The money paid to the poor for 40 years paſt, amounts, on an average, to 18l. Sterling *per annum*, as appears by written records. The annual amount of the funds deſtined for the relief of the poor, ariſing from the intereſt of 2000 merks mortified for their uſe many years ago, from money received for the uſe of mortcloths at burials, from the weekly collections that are made in the church, &c. is about 10l. Sterling. The deficiency has always been made up by an aſſeſſment on the heritors and tenants. At preſent, there is but one poor perſon upon the roll. But, upon looking over the poor's roll for 40 years back, one often meets with 13 or 14 perſons upon it. The relief afforded to the poor is always in their own cottages. Convinced that begging from door to door is an inlet to numberleſs evils, many people are endeavouring to ſuppreſs it as much as poſſible. It may be remarked, that in thoſe pariſhes where an aſſeſſment is laid upon the heritors and their tenants to ſupply the deficiency of the pariſh funds, the poor are much leſs ſcrupulous in applying for pariſh ſupport, than in thoſe pariſhes where they are ſupplied by the ſeſſion ſolely from the pariſh funds. Where this laſt is the caſe, the poor are leſs importunate, and more backward to apply for pariſh ſupport, and more thankful when they receive

ceive it. The cheapeſt way, therefore, and the beſt way for the morals of the people, to ſupply the poor, where it can be done, is to do it by the kirk-ſeſſion. The elders know the circumſtances of every individual in the pariſh, prevent impoſition, and often diſcover modeſt merit in want. This conſideration ſhould engage every perſon to be as liberal as his circumſtances will admit in contributing towards the pariſh funds. Sectaries of every denomination receive ſupply when they need it from the pariſh funds; but, though they give ſome occaſional ſupply to indigent perſons, it is but a ſmall proportion of the weekly collections that are made in their churches which is employed for the maintenance of the poor. This has a great tendency to diminiſh pariſh funds, and to bring on poor's rates upon pariſhes. To prevent ſo great an evil as the poor's rates, or an aſſeſſment for poor's money, the non-reſiding heritors alſo ſhould look upon themſelves as in juſtice bound to make an annual donation to the poor's funds of thoſe pariſhes where they have any property.

Wages, Price of Proviſions, &c.—The wages of a man-ſervant, when maintained in the family, 40 years ago, were about 3 l. Sterling, now from 5 l. to 7 l.; of a woman-ſervant, 2 l. now 3 l. *per annum;* of a day-labourer who received no victuals, 8 d. *per* day, now 1 s. The wages which the common labourer receives, together with his wife's induſtry, enable him not only to bring up a family, but alſo to give them education. They are all taught to read and write, and many of them to keep accounts. Few of them, however, are able to provide for ſickneſs or old age. Before marriage, they generally expend the moſt part of their wages in purchaſing fine clothes. This leaves them but little to furniſh their houſe, and begin the world.

Antiquities, &c.—There are on a high riſing ground in the ſouth part of the pariſh, traces of what the common people call a Roman camp. It conſiſts of the remains of two concentric circular earthen dykes, or mounds. The innermoſt is about 67 yards in diameter. Between the innermoſt and the outermoſt is a ſpace of about 15 feet. There were through the whole of this and the neighbouring pariſhes a great number of vaults with ſtrong doors. Some of them, if not the whole, had an appartment immediately above them with a turnpike-ſtair leading to it. A few of them ſtill remain. Vulgar report ſays, that the uſe of them was to keep their cattle from the Annandale thieves or freebooters. May not this ſuggeſt the origin of many of thoſe circular dykes, the remains of which are called by the common people Roman camps? Freebooting in former times, under certain circumſtances, was by no means a diſgraceful employment. This rendered every precaution to preſerve their property, eſpecially their cattle, highly neceſſary.

Character of the People.— The people, in general, are active and induſtrious, eſpecially in ſeed-time and harveſt. They know, that, if theſe works were not carried on with uncommon activity, they would loſe the ſeaſon of them, ſo variable and uncertain is the weather hereabout; and in thoſe times of urgent neceſſity, but eſpecially in harveſt, they are peculiarly attentive to that apoſtolic direction, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man alſo on the things of others," in its beſt ſenſe. For, no ſooner is any one's harveſt finiſhed, than his ſhearers are immediately diſperſed among all thoſe in his neighbourhood who have any corn to cut down. They are ſober and oeconomical.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The greateſt part of the common

common people enjoy the comforts of ſociety in a moderate degree; but they have no peculiar advantages. One great diſadvantage to which this pariſh, in common with the whole of this high country, is expoſed, is, that the corns on their lower grounds, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of rivers, moſſes, and marſhes, are very liable to be deſtroyed by *froſts* in the night-time about the end of Auguſt, and beginning of September. One of thoſe beautiful, calm, ſerene evenings, which draws numbers of the people in towns into the ſtreets and the fields, fills the farmer here with anxiety, and deprives him of his ſleep. He knows it is highly probable, that, when he riſes in the morning, he may ſee the hope of his harveſt gone. The froſt in September laſt deſtroyed many hundred bolls of corn in this country. Seldom does one year paſs without loſs in this way, leſs or more. But the years 1782 and 1784 were peculiarly diſtreſſing to this part of the country. Their corns were ſo effectually deſtroyed by the froſt, that, out of 40 bolls ſowing, ſome of the farmers had not 20 bolls of meal; nor durſt they venture to ſow a peck of them the following ſeaſon. They were therefore obliged to purchaſe, at a great diſtance, the whole of their ſeed-corn. The little meal which the froſted corn of thoſe years produced was as black as earth; and the porridge made of ſome of it, after ſtanding a ſhort time, ran partly to water. Their potatoes alſo, which are now become a conſiderable part of the people's food, were entirely deſtroyed. No remarkable ſickneſs, however, followed. So great were the ſtraits and hardſhips to which the people were reduced by thoſe calamitous years, that they contracted a dull and melancholy look, which continued for ſeveral years after. Till the winter 1788, even the curling-ſtone lay neglected. In thoſe years, many more than uſual received ſupply from the pariſh funds; and the late Count Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath, in the year 1782, remitted to the moſt of his tenants one third of their rent.

NUM-

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF GLENSHEIL.

(County of Roſs.—Preſbytery of Lochcarron.—Synod of Glenelg.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN MACRAE.

Origin of the Name, Situation, and Extent.

GLENSHEIL, which is only a diſtrict of the pariſh of that name, is ſituated between the foreſts of Seaforth, the proprietor, and Glengarry, and ſhould, it is ſaid, be called Glan-ſhelig, or valley of hunting.

The higher part of the pariſh conſiſts of two narrow glens or valleys, extending between two or three computed miles from the head of the well known arm of the ſea called Loch-Duich, and at the medium diſtance of one computed mile and a half from each other; but the grazings occupied by the inhabitants of theſe glens extend to the diſtance of eight computed miles more in the ſame direction of ſouth-eaſt, by between three and four computed miles broad.

The lower part of the pariſh, called Letterfern, runs in the direction of north-weſt along Loch-Duich, on the ſouth, the diſtance of ſix computed miles, and riſes from the ſea, by a pretty rapid aſcent, to the medium diſtance of one computed mile and a half; ſo that the pariſh is ſixteen miles long, by between one and a half and four broad.

Face

Face of the Country.—The two valleys in the height of the pariſh are ſurrounded on each ſide by mountains which riſe almoſt by a perpendicular aſcent to a prodigious height. The farther they retire from the ſea, their elevation ſeems to decreaſe, or rather appears leſs ſtriking. In many places, theſe mountains are rocky, and covered with heath and bent to the very ſummits; but the interjacent valleys are not unpleaſant, being covered with fine and coarſe graſs, and ſome wood; but the proportion of arable ground is very inconſiderable. The lower part of the pariſh is all covered with green, and intermixed with heath and bent. Here the proportion of arable ground is ſomewhat greater.

Number of Farms, Management, and mode of Cultivation.—In the pariſh are 17 farms, each of which, with the exception of two, is occupied by a number of tenants; ſo that each farm forms a village. The tenants graze their cattle promiſcuouſly, each reſtricting himſelf to a number of heads, proportioned to his rent; and the arable ground they occupy in like manner.

It does not always happen that the farm is equally divided among the occupiers; and, when one man's diviſion is not large enough to enable him to keep as many horſes (which is always four, and they never uſe oxen) as are ſufficient to draw the plough, two or more of them join.

In ſome places, particularly along the coaſt, the arable ground is ſo ſteep, and frequently ſo ſmall in extent, that either the horſes cannot ſtand firm, or have not room enough to turn upon it with the draught; in which caſe, the ground is turned by a machine, called the *crooked ſpade*, in a man's hand.

The old Scotch plough, and no other, is uſed. The horſes go all a-breaſt; that is, the four horſes are tied by the halters

ters to one ſtick at equal diſtances, which ſtick the driver holds forcibly in both hands, while he himſelf walks generally backwards, directly before the horſes.

Where the ground is ſteep, the mode of plowing is extremely tedious, being performed by what is called the *ſide-furrow*; that is, where the horſes cannot carry the draught directly againſt the aſcent, they go along-ſide the brae in an oblique direction, plowing down the ground all towards one ſide; and, in returning back, the plough cuts no ground, but is carried empty.

Soil, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—The ſoil is various. That in the height of the pariſh is thin, ſtony, and barren. Along the coaſt, though the ſoil is thin and light, it is not quite ſo unfertile; it is in general gravelliſh, or conſiſts of a black light earth.

All the weſt coaſt, but particularly Kintail, is ſubject almoſt to inceſſant rains and ſtorms throughout the year. The only dry weather to be looked for is from the middle or latter end of May to the middle of September, when the rains generally ſet in. The ſnow is ſeldom of long duration on the ſea-coaſt, and here the froſt is not felt ſo keen as in inland countries.

The diſeaſes moſt prevalent among the inhabitants of this place are rheumatiſms, ſciatics, and ruptures. They are daily expoſed to damps and rains, which are believed to be the cauſe of the two former; and the latter is attributed to the heavy weights which the men are in uſe of raiſing on their breaſts when they back-load their horſes; for, owing to the roughneſs of the country, and there being no roads, no waggon or cart can be uſed for any diſtance.

There are many inſtances of longevity. There are now living in the pariſh three men and a woman who exceed 80,

and

and, within the laſt ten years, three men died, two of whom were above 90, and one above 80. All the inhabitants, rich and poor, inoculate for the ſmall-pox; ſo that the ravages formerly made by that dreadful plague are not now much felt.

Loch-Duich and Shores.—Herrings pay annual viſits to Loch-Duich. They generally make their appearance about the middle of Auguſt, and ſometimes ſooner. Their ſtay is often ſhort, particularly of late years; but, during ſome ſeaſons, they appear in ſuch immenſe ſhoals, and continue ſo long, that, in the courſe of a few weeks, many veſſels fiſh full cargoes. It is obſerved, that, for the laſt ſix years, the herrings of this and the neighbouring lochs are much diminiſhed in ſize, in ſo much that the nets with which they were taken before that period, are now found to be by far too wide for the purpoſe.

In Loch-Duich are alſo found haddocks, cod, ling, ſkate, cuddie, flounder, &c. with almoſt all the variety of fiſh (but not in ſuch quantities) that appear any where on the weſt coaſt.

The ſhell-fiſh on the ſhores of Loch-Duich are muſcles, wilks, cockle, limpets, ſpout fiſh, clam ſhells, &c. &c.

Of the ſea-weed growing on its ſhores, the proprietor allows the ſeveral contiguous farms what is amply ſufficient for the purpoſe of manuring the land. The overplus, which is manufactured into kelp for his own uſe, does not, on an average, exceed ten tons yearly.

Seed-time, Harveſt, and Produce.—The only grain raiſed in the pariſh are ſmall oats and bear, and potatoes the only roots. The oats are begun to be ſown about the middle of March, barley and potatoes about the 20th of April; and the

the ſowing is ſeldom over before the end of May; and, in ſome ſeaſons, the harveſt is not in before the end of October.

This country is but little adapted for the purpoſes of agriculture; there are ſome farms which will not raiſe as much corn as will be ſufficient for the conſumption of the occupiers for one fourth of the year. The height of the pariſh is believed to be much calculated for rearing ſheep; and, in the year 1786, triple rent was offered for that diſtrict by ſheep-farmers, (it being then out of leaſe), which the proprietor abſolutely refuſed, declaring, that he would *never prefer ſheep to men*, at the ſame time that he ſet the lands to the old inhabitants (who are not over fond of ſheep) on their paying a pretty moderate augmentation.

The ſtaple production of the pariſh is black cattle. Theſe are not large, but hardy, and uncommonly elegant in ſhape. The price of a full grown cow is from 3 l. to 5 l. They are generally bought at Whitſunday and Michaelmas, by perſons from Ayr and Perth ſhires, who ſell them to the Engliſh drovers. The horſes are, like the black cattle, of ſmall ſize, but ſtrong and well formed, and generally ſell at between 4 l. and 6 l.

All the ſheep are of the ſmall kind. Their fleſh is ſweet and delicate, and their wool middling fine. A ſheep and lamb, with year old fleece, will fetch in May from between 5 s. to 6 s.

Goats are reared in the height of the pariſh. Their fleſh and milk are believed to be of a medicinal quality, and to contribute not a little to prevent and remove many complaints, particularly thoſe of a conſumptive kind. The price of a goat is from 5 s. to 7 s.

Character.—The inhabitants of this and of the neighbouring pariſh of Kintail conſiſt principally of two tribes or ſubordinate

ordinate clans, the Macraes (or Mackraws) and Maclennans, of which the Macraes are by far the moſt numerous. Theſe, except the name only, are united by every tie of connection; yet it is not unuſual to ſee them under the influence of thoſe paſſions which mutual jealouſy and claniſh animoſity inſpire. It is ſeldom, however, they fail to unite againſt any third party, whom they believe or imagine to have a deſign of invading the rights of either.

The Macraes and Maclennans have been long diſtinguiſhed for a deep-rooted attachment to the family of Seaforth, who have been for many centuries proprietors of this country. One inſtance of this attachment may ſerve as a ſpecimen.

Owing to the ſide which William Earl of Seaforth eſpouſed during the troubles of 1715 and 1719, memorable in this place for the battles of Sherriffmuir and Glenſheil, his lands of Kintail (a name then common to this and the pariſh of that name) had forfeited to the Crown; yet, during all the years of the forfeiture, it baffled all the endeavours and policy of Government to penetrate into the country, or to collect any rents in Kintail; and all the attempts made to effect that purpoſe by his Majeſty's troops were defeated with diſgrace, and not without proving fatal to ſome of thoſe who were raſh enough to undertake the enterpriſe. Seaforth's tenants were, on that occaſion, aſſiſted by the advice, and animated by the example of Donald Murchiſon, whoſe name, had his talents been employed on a more conſpicuous theatre, the page of hiſtory would not bluſh to tranſmit with honour to poſterity. He regularly collected the rents, and found means either of remitting them to Seaforth, who then lived in France, or of ſnatching an opportunity of conveying them ſafe to his Lord in perſon.

The inhabitants of this pariſh are a frugal people, plain, open, and ſincere; and, if ſurpaſſed in the virtue of induſtry

by their ſouthern neighbours, the difference is not owing to any natural incapacity in them, but becauſe the objects which excite to induſtry have not been yet introduced among them; and, in point of ſkill in the management of black cattle, their neighbours allow them to have the pre-eminence. For 40 years paſt, no perſon of this pariſh has been baniſhed, or ſuffered capital puniſhment.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The great advantage which the inhabitants of this pariſh enjoy in common with their neighbours on the weſt coaſt, is the near acceſs they have to fiſh, particularly herrings. Of theſe they generally lay up their annual ſtore in the months of September and October, which, with potatoes, become the favourite, and almoſt only food of the lower claſs of people for three-fourths of the year.

One of the chief diſadvantages is the ſcarcity of fuel. There are, indeed, inexhauſtible funds of moſs, but ſo diſtant, either on the ſummits, or behind the mountains, and ſo inacceſſible, by reaſon of the ſteepneſs or ruggedneſs of the mountains, that the moſt induſtrious have a difficulty in being comfortably ſupplied during the drieſt ſeaſons. The coal laws, as they preſently ſtand, are the ſubject of univerſal complaint on the weſt coaſt of Scotland; but in no place is their operation more bitterly felt than in Kintail.

No country is more neglected in reſpect of roads. The ſtatute labour, which for a few years was but imperfectly carried on, has been for ſome years paſt entirely diſcontinued, though in no part of Scotland more abſolutely neceſſary. The military road from Fort Auguſtus to Fort Bernera runs through the height of the pariſh the diſtance of 12 computed miles; but this road has alſo been neglected ſince 1776. Before that period, it was kept in annual repair by a party of ſoldiers.

ſoldiers. The bridges on this road in like manner have been neglected.

The ſwarm of ſturdy beggars with which this country is infeſted is conſidered as no ſmall diſadvantage. They conſiſt chiefly of ſtout able women, who, rather than engage in ſervice, are content to go about from houſe to houſe; but there is every reaſon to believe, the introduction of manufactures would effectually relieve the public of this burden.

The number of real poor on the pariſh roll is 21. There is no other fund for their ſupport but the weekly collections, which, one year with another, may amount to between 5 l. and 6 l. Such of them as are not able to travel about for alms, employ ſome near connection in that way.

Church, &c.—The living, including the glebe, is about 60 l. The King is patron. The groſs rent of the pariſh does not exceed 600 l. There is a parochial ſchool, with 200 merks Scots ſalary. The maſter, beſides quarter payments from his ſcholars, receives 1 s. for each marriage, and a conſideration from the ſeſſion funds for precenting.

There are only two houſes in the pariſh where whiſky is retailed. One of theſe is a ſtage-houſe on the road from Fort Auguſtus to Bernera, called Sheil Inn. Intemperance is not a prevalent vice in this place. The only ſeaſon of the year in which exceſs in drinking, as if by general conſent, is reckoned allowable, is Martinmas, when the factor diſcharges them for their rents. Then the proprietor's health is repeatedly drunk in copious bumpers.

Population.—The number of people in 1755 was 509.—There is good reaſon to believe that the population of the pariſh has increaſed during the laſt 18 years. In 1769 and 1772, a number of ſubſtantial farmers emigrated to North Carolina

Carolina with their families and many of their connections, which not only at the time, but for ſome years after, very ſenſibly diminiſhed the number of inhabitants; and, by a particular enumeration made in the year 1781, the number of ſouls were 152 leſs than they are at preſent, being now 721. The number of births is yearly from 17 to 22; of marriages, from 3 to 6; and of burials, from 8 to 12.

Battles.—In a narrow paſs in the height of the pariſh was fought in 1719 the battle of Glenſheil, between ſome Engliſh troops and 300 (ſome ſay 400) Spaniards. Theſe were joined by ſome Highlanders who favoured the cauſe of the Pretender, and who were headed by the Earl of Seaforth. The Earl was carried off by his tenants from the field, dangerouſly wounded; and, ſoon after, his followers gave way, leaving the Engliſh maſters of the field of battle. Their victory, however, coſt them pretty dear, having loſt their commander. The Spaniards, who were ſuſpected by the Highlanders of not being hearty in the cauſe, ſurrendered priſoners at diſcretion.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF STOW.

(County of Mid-Lothian.—Preſbytery of Lauder.—Synod of Lothian and Tweedale.)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT DAWSON.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Stow, in the ſouth diſtrict of Mid-Lothian, takes in part of the N. N. W. of Selkirkſhire. Its extent from Nettleflat, the moſt northerly farm-houſe, (where Galawater takes its riſe), to Corſlie, the county boundary, and from thence to Caddonlie, on the banks of Tweed, is 15 miles. Its medium breadth 5 miles, making 75 ſquare miles, or 37,500 acres.

Suppoſed preſently in crop, 3720 acres.

Of theſe laſt ſuppoſed in turnip, 150 acres.

Valued rent, Scots	- -	L. 13176	0 0
Computed real rent, Sterling	- -	4100	0 0

Three-fourths of the property has been changed within 45 years. The preſent proprietors, from circumſtances to be after mentioned, draw at leaſt 5 *per cent.* for their purchaſe-money.

Church, &c.—Stow is a menſal kirk of the Archbiſhop of St Andrews. The ſtipend was 400 l. Scots, with two chalders victual, before anno 1693, when it was augmented by 350 l.

350l. 6s. 2d. Anno 1780, again raiſed to 840l. Scots; two chalders meal, one ditto bear, valued at 80l. *per* chalder. Glebe about five acres. The miniſter had paſturage in Stow common, (I ſuppoſe by uſe and wont). The common was divided anno 1756, and 19 acres were allotted to the miniſter.—A new manſe was built anno 1782. The kirk two years before that was repaired, plaſtered on the roof and walls, and every way rendered decent and commodious.

Population.—From a liſt taken anno 1716 and 1717, of thoſe above 8 years old, 1035; another anno 1779, 1400 and upwards. This increaſe can only be attributed to the improvement of agriculture, no manufactures being yet eſtabliſhed The people, in general, are healthy and robuſt, ſubject to few diſeaſes. The greateſt part of theſe ariſe from want of cleanlineſs and foul feeding, ſuch as diſeaſed ſheep, and fiſh that come up at ſpawning time. Epidemical diſeaſes have ſeldom proved fatal; but, of late years, there have been more conſumptions and nervous complaints than formerly. This is perhaps to be attributed to the immoderate uſe of ſpirituous liquors, and the introduction of tea of the worſt quality, drunk too hot, which may produce the moſt fatal effects on the nervous ſyſtem.

Gala-water was formerly famed for great plenty of excellent trouts. Theſe in number are greatly decreaſed ſince the introduction of lime as a manure.

Face of the Country, &c.—The country is hilly. Towards the water ſides it is moſtly covered with a ſhort green ſward; towards the higher grounds, heath, bent, and ling, generally prevail, which laſt proves a good feed for ſheep in ſpring. On the ſides of the many burns that fall into Gala and Tweed,

Tweed, there grows the richeſt and moſt delicate graſs, interſperſed with a variety of plants and flowers.

This country is well adapted for paſture of ſheep and goats. Theſe laſt are now entirely given up, in conſequence of the increaſed growth of corn. Upon a general ſurvey, it would appear that the tops of the hills near the water ſides were the only ſpots cultivated by the plough, while the lower ground was covered with trees, chiefly alder and birch. When they began to clear the ground, no medium was obſerved; not a tree left for building, or country uſe, all of which muſt be brought from a diſtance. Of late, ſome of the proprietors have begun to plant; and it is to be hoped, in a few years the country will aſſume a different appearance.

Improvements.—Anno 1754, the turnpike roads from Edinburgh to Selkirk were made. This produced a total change in the ſyſtem of farming. No lime had been brought to this country but for building, and on horſe-back. The expence of this mode of carriage prevented the uſe of lime as a manure. A carriage-road being now opened to Middleton lime-kilns, the farmers, who before had only uſed ſledges and tumbler carts to lead in their corn and earth-elding, (the winning and leading of which was the whole ſummer work of their ſervants and horſes), to improve this advantage, now were induced to increaſe the number of their horſes, and change the conſtruction of their carts, to lead coals inſtead of peats, and lime for their land. The old lees, and hitherto uncultivated heath-land, were now broken up, and produced great crops, as is always the caſe with new land. But, as lime was a new and more expenſive manure, the farmers in general reſolved to make the moſt of it by repeated crops, not conſidering the fatal conſequences of ſcourging the limed ſoil, or the advantage of laying down their land in good condition for

for grass. Would the farmers consult their own interest, and, after lime, sow their lands with grass the second or third crop, the hay and pasture would more than compensate them, besides leaving the land in good heart for after crops; but men seldom forego a present profit for future gain.

Sheep.—Nature seems chiefly to have designed this part of the country for sheep pasture. The sheep in the higher parts of the parish seem originally to have been of the black-faced kind, short legged; and, from the nature of the soil, which is dry and light, they are hardy, and known by the graziers to be healthy and good feeders. The wool is coarse, and was formerly sold to the Galashiels clothiers for the purpose of making gray cloth of that name, at from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. *per* stone. The sheep in the lower grounds are a cross breed between the black and the white faced, by which means, together with a finer pasture in the low lands, the quality of wool is finer, and the price from 7 s. to 10 s. *per* stone; and, from the late advance in that article, 11 s. and 12 s. This, perhaps, may also be owing, in a great measure, to the quantity of artificial grass sown. It is a certain fact, that where most of this is, the sheep are not only improved in quantity and quality of wool, but in the value of carcase.—One thing further is greatly in favour of any improvement by sown grass. The farmer will not be obliged, as often formerly, to drive his sheep to lower ground, at a distance from home, for food, in a hard winter, having plenty of sown-grass hay, to supply the sheep when they can get no food from the ground. The increase of turnips will also be of great advantage in this respect.

Number of Sheep.—Though storemasters do not, in general, wish to say how many they hold, according to the best information,

information, which I believe is not above the truth, there are in the parish 1062 scores, or 21,240 sheep.

Inclosures.—Of late years many inclosures have been made, and all who either possess land in property, or hold it in tack, are sensible of the advantage arising from them; but the farmers think 7½ *per cent.* too high a premium for dry stone-dykes, which they must keep in repair.—The culture of turnips has of late years rapidly increased, in so much that there is hardly one who possesses 3 or 4 acres who does not apply some of it in that way. Young cattle are reared with the shaws; and the increased quantity of dung is by some thought adequate to the price of labour, and the land put in high order for barley and grass.

Number of cattle yearly fed on turnip, 90, at 10l. *per* head - - - L. 900 0 0

Sheep on ditto this year 6 score, at 16l. *per* score - - - - - - 96 0 0

Servants wages *per annum* in the 1759.		Now.
Men - -	L. 3 4 0 -	L. 6 10 0
Women - -	2 0 0 -	3 10 0

Day-labourers with meat,—winter, 4 d.—summer, 6 d. *per* day.

Now,——winter, 6 d.—summer, 8 d.—in harvest higher.

Taylors with meat, 4 d. - -	Now, 6 d.
Masons without meat, 1 s. 2 d. -	Now, 1 s. 6 d.
Wrights, ditto - 1 s. - -	Now, 1 s. 4 d.

Floods.—30th July 1735, the former part of the season being exceedingly warm and dry, there was a great storm of thunder, with hail and rain. At Wedderlaw, a hill in Overshiels ground, three miles up Lugate-water, the shepherd sitting at a small distance, observed the face of the hill begin to

move, the whole flock of ſheep being gathered on that ſpot in conſequence of the thunder; he immediately ſent his dog to drive them off. By this means the greateſt part were ſaved, though ſome went with the break, which was carried down to Gala, and a great quantity of the moſs as far as Galaſhiels, which is reported to have ſerved the poor people in that village for peats the following winter.

Poor.—The firſt aſſeſſment was in October 1764, of 14l. *per annum*, allotted according to the valued rent, paid in equal proportions by the heritors and tenants. Theſe laſt have been invited to attend the meetings forth at buſineſs. The kirk-ſeſſion ſupplies 5l. from the mort-cloth money, &c. From anno 1782-83, by reaſon of the great dearth at that time, it was raiſed to 30l. for the half year. After this, it was again reduced to 24l. *per* half year, at which it ſtill continues. The number of poor on the roll is between 25 and 30, beſides occaſional allowances.

Manufactures.—Anno 1778, Robert Boyd clothier came to Stow. Before that time, nothing had been done in the clothing way. The manufacture has increaſed; and this laſt year he has made and carried to market, on his own behoof, cloth to the value of 180l. Sterling, beſides country work. As Stow is ſituated in an wool country, having plenty of water, near to coals, and the Edinburgh market, it is to be hoped the trade will ſucceed. Before this period, the only manufacture was what is called Stow ſtruntain, made of the coarſeſt wool, and wrought by the women on a loom like a bed-heck. Price of working one groſs, or 144 yards, per day, with meat, 6d.; without meat, 9d. This is uſed for garters and bindings, and ſold at from 9s. to 11s. *per* groſs.

NUM-

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF PORT OF MONTEITH.

(*County of Perth.—Preſbytery of Dunblane.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.*)

By Mr W. STIRLING.

Soil and Climate.

THE pariſh of Port, in the northern part, is rocky and mountainous, and moſtly covered with heath, there being only ſome narrow ſkirts and hollows capable of cultivation. The ſouthern parts are more level, and conſiſt of moſs, meadow, dry-field, and carſe. The moſs is very extenſive, and affords plenty of fuel, which is, however, obtained with conſiderable trouble and expence. The ſoil, which is various, produces moderate crops of beans, peaſe, oats, barley, clover, and turnip. The two laſt are much more cultivated than formerly. Potatoes are raiſed in great abundance, and are the chief ſubſiſtence of the poorer ſort of inhabitants for ſix or eight months in the year.

The climate is reckoned wholeſome. The people, in general, are ſober and induſtrious. Many have been long-lived; and, within theſe few years, one man died at the age of 92, and a man and a woman aged 96.

Trades.—Moſt of the adults are employed in agriculture, excepting a few weavers, taylors, ſhoemakers, blackſmiths, and

and wrights, stationed in different places for the accommodation of the neighbourhood.

Waters.—There are, on the north-east corner of the parish, three mineral springs close by each other, all of different qualities; one emetic, another cathartic; and the third is used for washing cutaneous eruptions on the body. But the respective nature of these waters has not as yet been properly analysed.—The Loch of Monteith is the most remarkable sheet of water, being nearly in the center of the parish, adjoining the kirk and manse. It is adorned with two small islands and a peninsula. It is about five miles round. Loch Vennochar, on the north, is the boundary betwixt this parish and Callander. There are some other smaller lochs, one of which forms a beautiful round bason, about half a mile in circumference, on the top of our highest ridge of mountains.—The Loch of Monteith abounds with perch, pike, and eel, and affords some large trout. The Forth, till of late, afforded some sport for salmon on the border of this parish. But now they seem to be in a good measure banished from this neighbourhood, by conveying down the river such quantities of moss, for the purpose of acquiring the fine clay soil which is below it.

Population.—The inhabitants of the parish, in 1755, amounted to 1865. It is believed, that, for some time, they have been on the decrease, owing partly to the junction of farms, and chiefly to the emigration of cottagers and their families to great towns, and to the cotton manufactures.

Farms and Valuation.—A considerable proportion of the parish is now inclosed. The farms, in general, are not large. The rents are various, from 100 l. to 10 l. Sterling.—There

are

are upwards of 20 heritors, beſides a number of ſmall feuers. The only principal heritors at preſent reſiding are Mr Erſkine of Cardroſs, the patron of the pariſh, and Mr Graham of Gartmore.

The valued rent of the whole is 5471 l. Scots. The real rent it would be difficult, with any degree of accuracy, to inveſtigate.

Poor.—The number of poor on the ſeſſion liſts is commonly from 33 to 40. They are ſupported partly by the weekly collections at church; by the dues paid on the proclamation of banns, and for the uſe of the mort-cloth; by the annual produce of ſome money laid out at intereſt; and partly by the private charities of their neighbours of different ranks, who are in general well inclined, according to their ability, to aſſiſt and relieve the indigent and diſtreſſed.

Productions.—It is undoubted, that this pariſh raiſes more grain than is conſumed by the inhabitants, a great many bolls of oat-meal being yearly exported to Glaſgow, Dumbarton, and to the Highlands. The greater part of the barley is converted into whiſky by the licenſed diſtillers. Conſiderable quantities alſo of butter and cheeſe are ſent to market in the great towns.

NUM-

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF GLASFORD.

(*County of Lanark.—Preſbytery of Hamilton.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.*)

By the Reverend Mr HUGH MITCHELL.

Extent and Soil.

THE pariſh of Glasford is near eight miles in length. Its breadth is exceedingly unequal; though, at an average, it may be two miles.—Its ſoil, like its figure, is unequal. In ſome parts it is a light loam, in others a ſtrong clay; but, in many parts, it is moſſy and barren. The light loamy ſoil is remarkably ſtony. Experience, however, and obſervation, have ſhown, that to this kind of ſoil, ſtones anſwer many valuable purpoſes. They ſhelter the young ſtalk from mildew and ſtorms; they prevent the crop from being burnt up by ſcorching heats; they intercept the evaporation of the enriching juices; and, by theſe means, greatly aſſiſt the progreſs of vegetation.

An heritor, who occupies his own land, hoping to improve the ſoil by carrying away the ſtones, made the experiment upon one of his incloſures. The land obſtinately refuſed to yield him its uſual crop. Diſcovering his error, he reſtored what he had unjuſtly taken away.

Not many pariſhes are better ſupplied with fuel. The eaſt and north-eaſt extremities lie contiguous to excellent colliries;

ries; and the weſt is ſeparated from Kilbride by a moſs that yields peat of good quality, and in great abundance.

The ſpirit of improving land has not yet reached this pariſh. There is in it only one man who deſerves the name of a farmer. To improve land requires both induſtry and ſkill. Few of the farmers here have a moderate portion of either, and many are defective in both. Though the land on the eaſt of the pariſh lies in the vicinity of lime and coal, and is capable of vaſt improvement, it is nevertheleſs in much the ſame ſtate in which it was 20 years ago. Potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, for the uſe of cattle, may be raiſed in great perfection. Few, however, are planted but for culinary purpoſes. The fact is, that the greater part of the farmers are proprietors, who occupy their own land. The value of their property, taken ſeverally, may be from 30 l. to 120 l. a year. They read no books on agriculture *; nor do they ſeek the company of thoſe who might inſpire them with a taſte for improvement. They ſeem to be contented with what they have, rather than ambitious of more. Though they are not kind to the ſoil, their attachment to it is ſtrong; and the ſpot where they firſt drew breath is held ſacred.

The eaſtern part of the pariſh is incloſed with hedge and ditch. Thorn-hedges, however, on the marſhy and light loam ſoil, have been found not to ſucceed here; nor can they be kept up but at great expence. For the firſt three years they do well enough; but, if afterwards they are not once a year cleared of moſs, within the courſe of ten years they become completely incruſted with that noxious vegetable. To take off the moſs without hurting the tree, requires both ſkill and patience; and therefore this expedient is ſeldom tried. Another, leſs laborious, has been attempted.

Some

* This, in ſome meaſure, will be accounted for when the preſent ſtate of *education* in the pariſh comes to be ſpoken of.

Some farmers, expecting a new crop of ſhoots, have cut down the diſeaſed hedge till within a foot of the ground. The remedy has been worſe than the diſeaſe; the external air being in great meaſure, and the nouriſhing dews altogether excluded by the thick coat of moſs; and the perſpiration being greatly obſtructed, the tree decays, and ſickens, and dies. Trees of every deſcription in the pariſh ſoon gather moſs. Hence apple, pear, and other fruit-trees of the larger kind do not thrive; and the fruit of ſuch as arrive at maturity is greatly inferior, both in richneſs and in flavour, to the fruit on the Clyde.

The women in this pariſh poſſeſs a ſingular dexterity in rearing calves; and the richeſt veal in the Edinburgh market, it is believed, comes from Glaſford or Avendale.

Population.—In 1755, the numbers were 559. At the beginning of this year, (1792) there were in the pariſh 788 ſouls. Its population has greatly increaſed within theſe 20 years. The increaſe, however, is owing not to the farming, but to the manufacturing part of the community. There are in it three ſmall, but thriving villages. One of them, which, in the year 1771, conſiſted only of 14 houſes, and 63 inhabitants, now contains 44 houſes, and 196 inhabitants. In this village there are 36 looms; 12 employed in the cotton, and the others in the linen manufacture. The flouriſhing ſtate of theſe manufactures has contributed to enhance the price of labour of every kind. The day-labourer has raiſed his wages one penny a day. Taylors, within the courſe of laſt twelvemonth, have raiſed their wages from 8 d. to 1 s. a day. Mechanics have enhanced the price of their workmanſhip in proportion.

Church, School, and Poor.—The preſent value of the bene-

fice

fice is 30 l. 8 s. 10 d. in money, 74 bolls 14 pecks in oatmeal, a manſe, and a glebe of near ſix acres. The Earl of Eglintoune is patron. The preſent rent of his Lordſhip's property in the pariſh is 292 l. out of which the clergyman is paid 1 l. 5 s. 3 d. in money, and 36 pecks in victual. Another heritor, whoſe rent is ſcarcely 6 l. pays 5 s. in money, and 20 pecks in victual. To them who underſtand the doctrine of teinds, this diſproportion, vaſt as it is, may not ſeem extraordinary. It ſerves, however, (a wag might ſay), to ſhow how much Lords are obliged to the church, and how little the church is obliged to them. There are 41 heritors, 8 of whom do not reſide in the pariſh. The whole valued rent is 2654 l. 4 s. 2 d. Scots. The real rent cannot be leſs than 1900 l. Sterling.

The church was built in 1633. It never was elegant nor convenient. Its preſent uncouth appearance fixes the attention of every beholder; and ſcarce a ſtranger paſſes by without making it a compliment. It is not in good repair. The heritors, unlike the ancient Jews, love not to decorate the temple; though it would be doing them injuſtice not to obſerve, that they love to attend it.

Matters have been ſo managed here, that the manſe is like the church. Though repaired five years ago, the manſe needs again to be repaired. It is damp in the extreme. After a thaw or a ſmart ſhower of rain, the inſide walls and timber exhibit a ſcene wonderfully ſtriking. The pearly drops meet the eye from every point of view; ſo that, amid the rigours of winter, its inhabitants enjoy ſome of the pleaſures of a May morning. The ſituation of the manſe accounts for this. It lies in a ſwamp, the inconvenience of which the preſent clergyman has, in ſome degree, remedied by *ſivers*, as they are here called, and by other methods of

draining the water. The ſite ſeems to have been choſen in turbulent times; for, except a narrow neck of land that leads to the church, and a little garden, now pretty well drained, the manſe and offices are completely ſurrounded with a moraſs. It is therefore not difficult to conceive, that, if neceſſary, the manſe might, at ſmall expence, be made a place of conſiderable ſtrength.

The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks. He has a teaching-room and a dwelling-houſe, conſiſting of two ſmall apartments. The quarterly fees are; for Engliſh, 1 s. 6 d.; for writing and arithmetic, 2 s.; and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin. The ſchool, as well as the church, is injudiciouſly ſituated, being at the diſtance of ſeven miles from the oppoſite extremity of the pariſh; and, were it not for a populous and thriving village in the neighbourhood, a ſchoolmaſter could not live. The average number of ſcholars may be 40. With all the application he can beſtow, his living, including perquiſites, cannot be worth more than 20 l. a year. Within the courſe of ſix years, there have been five changes of ſchoolmaſters. This rapid ſucceſſion is juſtly attributed to the ſmallneſs of the living. The low value of money, and the high price of every thing, render 20 l. but a ſcanty ſubſiſtence. A ſchoolmaſter, even in a ſmall landward pariſh, hopes, at his admiſſion, to live at leaſt as comfortably as a plowman. He miſtakes it; and will be able much ſooner to diſcover than to correct his miſtake. The plowman's wages have been doubled within theſe 40 years paſt: The ſchoolmaſter's condition, during that long period, has undergone no material change for the better. The plowman ſerves one maſter only: The ſchoolmaſter has commonly as many dictators as employers. The former receives his wages from one hand, and theſe wages are chearfully and punctually paid: The latter, with difficulty,

difficulty, collects the hard earned fruits of his induſtry from the reluctant hands of forty *.

Proviſion is made for the poor by half yearly aſſeſſments. Their average number for 10 years preceding 1792, is 7; and the annual ſum for their ſupport, at an average, during that period, is 24 l.

Character.—The inhabitants of this pariſh cannot be diſtinguiſhed from their neighbours either by their virtues or their vices. They are, in general, ſober, contented, and hoſpitable. The manufacturing claſs, poſſeſſing theſe qualities, are alſo induſtrious. In the memory of no man living, has there been any belonging to it who has ſuffered capital puniſhment; nor is it known here that there is one inſtance on record. The pariſh is not furniſhed with the accommodations of an inn. There are, indeed, four houſes where ale and Britiſh ſpirits are ſold; but it is not probable that any of the landlords ſhall become rich in the trade.

In this pariſh there are a few Burghers and Antiburghers, and ſome of the Relief denomination. In former times, both here and elſewhere, the Antiburghers, the ſtricteſt ſect, would not allow a church clergyman to pray in their families. If at any time this indulgence was granted him, it was upon condition that he ſhould go about the duty not as a *miniſter*,

* Under theſe circumſtances of mortification and diſappointment, a country ſchoolmaſter ſoon feels diſguſted at his ſituation; and, inſtead of beſtowing the neceſſary application to the ſchool where he is eſtabliſhed, his mind is occupied in contriving the moſt likely means of bettering his condition elſewhere. It were to be wiſhed that a nation, liberal and enlightened in other reſpects, would concur in adopting ſome effectual plan to reſcue a very uſeful body of men from unmerited neglect and miſery. Let a decent competence be annexed to the office, and from that moment ſchoolmaſters will diſcharge their truſt with fidelity to the public, and credit to themſelves.

miniſter, but as a *private Chriſtian*. They are now beginning to lay aſide this nice diſtinction here. The preſent incumbent, in the courſe of his annual ſurvey, is invited even by ſome of the Antiburghers to perform the uſual duties of viſitation. A pleaſing circumſtance this in the revolution of religious ſentiment! Though they differ from the church, and from one another, concerning ſome ſmall points, which appear to them of great importance, yet all denominations within the pariſh have learned to live together as brethren.

NUM-

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF KILBIRNY.

(County of Ayr.—Preſbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.)

By Mr JAMES ADAM, *Aſſiſtant.*

Soil and Climate.

THE pariſh of Kilbirny is, in ſoil and appearance, very various. More than one third of it on the north-weſt is muir, moſs, and hill, fit only for ſheep and black cattle, with plenty of hares and muir-fowl. Another third of it lies gently declining to the ſouthward, with ſoils of ſand, clay, and earth, and not unfruitful either in graſs or corn, and capable of great improvement. The remaining part of it lies low along the river Garnock, and is compoſed of ſome of the fineſt deep moulds of earth and clay in Scotland, the moſt part of it yielding generally 8 or 10 bolls of oats *per* acre; but is thought rather wet and level for wheat.—The climate is very healthful; the air neither too moiſt nor too dry. We have no peculiar diſeaſes, nor any epidemical, excepting the ſmall-pox, which once every five or ſix years carries off a number of our young ones. Inoculation, though a great mean of preſerving both life and beauty, is not by far ſo much attended to and practiſed here as it ought to be; but I hope that the people will ſoon be more and more convinced of its ſalutary effects. The moſt common diſeaſes are colds, rheumatiſms,

matisms, inflammatory and nervous fevers; with a few consumptions, and very seldom the putrid fever and sore throat.

Waters.—There is a fine loch, about two miles in length, and near half a mile in breadth, well stored with pike, perch, trout, and eel. The late Earl of Crawfurd kept a pleasure-boat on it; and now there is a collier-boat erected on it, much more useful, for conveying coals from this to the Beith side of the loch.

Garnock is the only river of any consequence, but not navigable. It rises from the foot of a very high hill in the muir called the Misty Law, and runs shallow, clear, and dimpling beautifully down the hills southward, and almost divides the parish into two halves, circulating the lower grounds on the south-east side; and then holding on its course through Dalry and Kilwinning, enlarging as it flows, until near Irvine it pours a torrent into the sea.

There are no bleachfields, nor printfields, nor cotton mills as yet on this river, though it is finely situated for them all; and, as there is plenty of fire and provisions in this place, and the manufacturing business going on briskly in this west country, it is not to be doubted but that there will soon be some of these public works in this parish.

Mansion.—The mansion-house of Kilbirny, an old castle, was built by the Crawfurd family near 300 years ago, and a new house, with large office-houses adjoined, about 100 years ago, and long inhabited by the Crawfurd family, and Viscounts of Garnock; and again, about 36 years ago, repaired and beautified by the late Earl of Crawfurd; but soon thereafter was unfortunately burnt; so that now it stands quite unroofed and ruinous. It was pleasantly situated, commanding a noble prospect, with fine gardens, large parks, and

and policies, all of which are going to ruin. The place, the parks, and more than 1000 acres of good land, are ſet to one farmer. This arrangement ſeems here, as in other parts, to be a loſs to the proprietor, as well as to the community at large. It turns out many induſtrious families, thins the country, prevents marriages and population, and makes the land no better than it was an hundred years ago. Hence, at the end of every leaſe, the proprietor only gets an advanced rent in proportion to the riſe and value of other commodities and neceſſaries of life; whereas, if ſmall farms of 60 or 80 acres were only given to one perſon, every inch of ground would be improven, many ſubdiviſions would be made, induſtry would be more encouraged, and marriage, population, and improvement, would go rapidly on; and then the proprietor would, at the end of every leaſe, get an advanced rent, both in proportion to the growing value of his lands, well improven, and alſo in proportion to the riſe and value of other commodities, much heightened by the increaſe of demand and population.

Population.—The town or village of Kilbirny contains about 80 families, or 300 people. About 50 years ago, there were only three houſes there; but the late flouriſhing ſilk manufactories have wonderfully increaſed the population of all the little towns in this weſt country; and, if the cotton works go on as they are now promiſing to do, the number of houſes and inhabitants in every village will ſtill increaſe. In 1755, the numbers were 651; and now there are nearly 700. Though the town has greatly increaſed, yet the country part of the pariſh has rather decreaſed, owing to the foreſaid ruinous policy of ſetting large farms to one perſon. There are, below 10 years of age, nearly 180; and between 10 and 20 years of age, 140; between 20 and 50, 215; between

tween 50 and 70, 140; and between 70 and 100, 25. The proportion between males and females is nearly, as uſual, 13 to 12. The births, one year with another, are 22; marriages, 11; and burials, 14.

People.—The people are ſober, quiet, active, and induſtrious, and generally wealthy. There are few poor, and none that go a-begging. The poor's funds are good, and more than ſufficient for the pariſh poor. The preſent miniſter, Mr Malcolm Brown, was ſettled here in the 1734, and is now a man above 90 years of age, with judgment and memory ſound and good, but ſight and hearing greatly on the decline. He can walk ſtraight and ſteady, ride a mile once or twice a week, marry and baptize all that offer, and preaches once or twice a year. The ſtipend is 8 chalders. He has been married theſe 50 years; and his wife, near 80, is ſtill a ſtrong, active, lively, and ſenſible woman. They are both much eſteemed and reſpected by all that know them.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF DRUMMELZIER.

(County of Tweedale.—Preſbytery of Peebles.—Synod of Lothian and Tweedale.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM WELSH.

Name, Soil, and Climate.

THE antient and modern name of this pariſh is the ſame, and is ſaid to ſignify, in the Gaelic, "Here is a plain," which accords very well with the ſituation of the village that is built on a rivulet called Pow Sail, at the head of a haugh of about 300 acres of incloſed land, divided into ſixteen parks, in graſs, rented about 20 s. *per* acre; 30 years ago, uninclosed, they ſet at 7 s. *per* acre. The pariſh is 12 miles long, and, at an average, about 3 broad. The face of the country is beautifully varied with hill and rock, rivulets and ſmall plains, lying on the Tweed. The ſoil is light, but fertile. The air is healthy. The moſt frequent diſeaſes are, ſlow fevers, conſumptions, and rheumatiſms. There are no fiſh but trout and ſalmon.

Population in 1755, - - - -			305
—— in 1790, males, - -	123		
—— females, - -	147		
		——	270

Sum of births, from 1744 to 1790,	403
—— of burials for that term,	255
Difference,	148

This, and moſt of the neighbouring pariſhes, are greatly decreaſed in number. A third of the inhabitants live in the village, the reſt in farm and cot-houſes. We have only 6 farmers, 7 weavers, 4 taylors and apprentices, 2 maſons, 2 ſmiths, and 6 day-labourers; the reſt are ſhepherds, cowherds, and ploughmen. There are only one Seceder, and one Epiſcopalian. The people are induſtrious. Only four old perſons, and a dumb man, receive charity.

Productions.—There is little natural wood here, only at Polmood, a ſmall one which formerly has been pretty large; but has been deſtroyed by bad management, and particularly by ſheep. The ſoil is very fit for trees of every kind, and the late Sir James Naſmyth planted a great deal of fruit trees, as well as fir, which have thriven very well. There is no wheat. The grain is barley, peaſe, and oats. The farmers alſo ſow turnip, and plant a conſiderable quantity of potatoes, of which the people are fond, and think that a ſtatue ought to be erected to the memory of Sir Walter Raleigh, who firſt brought them to Britain. Few graſs ſeeds are ſown on account of the ſheep, which are great enemies to them.—Servants wages are high. A man, 6 l. *per annum*; a maid ſervant, 2 l. for the ſummer half year, and about 25 s. for the winter. The wages they receive enable families generally to live in a very different manner indeed from the poor in England, as they buy no articles of luxury.—Proviſions are double the price they were 40 years ago, which bears hard upon ſchoolmaſters, and others, whoſe ſalaries have not been augmented. A lamb coſts 5 s. or 6 s.; a

ſheep,

ſheep, if fat, 11 s. or 12 s.; a fowl, 1 s.; butter, 10 d. *per* lib.; cheeſe, 6 s. *per* ſtone. The ploughs uſed are of the Scotch kind.—Few Engliſh, except by gentlemen or improvers, the land being full of ſtones.—The celebrated Merlin is buried here; but no other perſon of great diſtinction.

NUM.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF BROUGHTON.

(County of Tweedale.—Preſbytery of Biggar.—Synod of Lothian and Tweedale).

By the Reverend Mr THOMAS GRAY.

Eſtate of Broughton.

THE eſtate of Broughton has been, for a great number of years, in the poſſeſſion of the Murrays of Stenhope, who reſided in the pariſh, and was ſold by the late Sir John Murray commonly called Secretary Murray (having acted in that capacity to the Pretender), to James Dickſon of Edrum, member of Parliament for this diſtrict of burrows in the year 1762, and above eight years afterwards, it was ſold by his heirs to the preſent Lord Juſtice Clerk, now proprietor of the whole pariſh. The manſion-houſe on this eſtate was burnt about 18 years ago, and is not yet rebuilt. The village of Broughton was rebuilt by the late James Dickſon, Eſq; after the Engliſh faſhion, and remarked by paſſengers for its neatneſs.

The form of this pariſh is two ridges of hills, with a valley between them, and the village of Broughton at the lower end of the valley, 4 miles in length and 3 in breadth.

Soil and Air.—The ſoil is generally of a deep wet clay, and produces good crops in dry ſeaſons.—The air is dry and healthy,

healthy, and no diſtempers are prevalent here, but ſuch as are every where common.

Population.—The antient ſtate of population in this pariſh was 400 ſouls. In 1755, it was 367. The preſent ſtate of population is 264. There are 142 males, and 122 females.

In the village of Broughton there are 20 dwelling houſes, which contain 36 people, and 61 children.

In the country part of the pariſh 167 reſide, which, with the 97 that live in the village, make up 264 ſouls, the amount of the preſent population.

The annual average of births, - -	7
——————— of deaths, - - -	5
——————— of marriages, - -	3
Souls under 10 years of age, - - -	75
— from 10 to 20, - - - -	57
— from 20 to 50, - - -	96
— from 50 to 70, - - -	31
— from 70 to 100, - . - -	5

There are twelve farmers in the pariſh, and they employ in huſbandry 28 male ſervants, and 23 females.—There are 4 weavers in the pariſh, 4 wrights, 1 taylor, 1 ſmith, 1 miller, 2 ſhoemakers, and 3 ſhopkeepers.

The people in this pariſh are well affected to the preſent eſtabliſhment; at the ordination of the incumbent, there was not one ſeceder in the whole pariſh; there are now 8 who were Seceders from the Church before they came into this pariſh.

Productions.—There is no natural wood, nor fruit trees in the pariſh; but ſeveral plantations of fir and hard timber, in a thriving condition. There are 200 black cattle, and upwards of 2000 ſheep, and 80 horſes, young and old.—There

are

are 400 acres in tillage, 300 in corn, 60 in bear, 30 in peas, and 10 in potatoes.—The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with proviſions, and exports corn, cattle, and wool, to a conſiderable extent.—There is no hemp, and very little flax raiſed in the pariſh, being found, from experience, not to agree with the ſoil and climate.—The ſoil anſwers ſown graſs extremely well, and there are about 30 acres, at an average, laid down with graſs ſeeds every year, which produce very plentiful crops. All the other lands are in paſture.

They in general ſow their corn and peaſe in the month of March, and reap in September; their bear in April, and reap in Auguſt.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—This pariſh labours under a great diſadvantage in regard to feuel, having none but coal, and that at the diſtance of 16 miles; lime is at the diſtance of 12 miles.—Another diſadvantage this pariſh labours under, is the want of reſiding heritors, which is a great loſs to the poor, eſpecially in theſe pariſhes where there are no poor rates, as in this caſe, the poor are ſupported by the poor.

The language ſpoken here is Engliſh, with the Scotch accent; but from what language the names of places in the pariſh are derived, is impoſſible to ſay.

The land rent of the pariſh is about 700 l. a year.—The cot-houſes, in the pariſh, at an average 1 l. yearly.

Church and Poor.—The value of the living varies ſomewhat, in proportion to the price of meal, the ſtipend being 35 l. in money, and 3 chalders of oat meal, at an average 80 l. including the glebe. Patron, Duke of Queenſberry.

The number of the poor receiving alms, at an average, are 8; and there being no poor rates in the pariſh, they are ſupported by the Sunday's collections, and the benefits ariſing from

from the mort-cloth and proclamation of banns. It would be a good fund towards the maintenance of the poor, and a good mean for the preventing of the crimes of unchaſtity and child-murder, if the ſtool of repentance, which is, no doubt, a relic of Popery, was legally aboliſhed, and a fine in money eſtabliſhed in its place, in proportion to circumſtances and ſituations, wherever the ſcandal was not removed by marriage.

The wages of a day-labourer in huſbandry, 1 s. *per* day; of wrights, 1 s. 2 d; of taylors, 1 s.; and of maſons, 1 s. 8 d. without victuals.—The common wages of male ſervants, 6 l. of female, 3 l. *per* year, with victuals.—There are 14 ploughs in the pariſh, of the Scotch kind, and upwards of 50 carts.

Ancient Buildings.—There are the remains of ten caſtles, commonly called towers, which appear to have been houſes of great ſtrength. In the under ſtorey they had a wooden door of uncommon thickneſs, full of iron-ſpikes with broad heads, and a ſtrong iron-gate that opened in the inſide. One of theſe doors and gates was preſerved in the pariſh for a long time as a piece of antiquity, and has been ſeen by ſeveral now living. In one of theſe caſtles the great Macbeth is ſaid to have lived; and it is called Macbeth's Caſtle to this day. Mr James Dickſon, late proprietor of this pariſh, employed workmen to dig up the foundation of part of Macbeth's Caſtle, in ſearch of treaſure and antiquities; but nothing was found but ſome pieces of old armour, and coins of no great conſequence.

Roads.—The public road which runs through the pariſh, and leads to Moffat, is kept in good repair; but the bye-roads are very bad, and many of them impaſſable, no ſtatute labour

labour having been performed, nor commutation money uplifted, for the laſt ten years.—There is only one bridge in the pariſh over Biggar water, about a quarter of a mile from the village; and, being upon the public road, and of great advantage to travellers, the water in the winter ſeaſon being often impaſſable, is kept in tolerably good repair.

School.—There is only one ſchool in the pariſh, ſalary 5 l. 16 s. 8 d. which, with ſchool wages and other perquiſites, may amount to the ſmall living of 11 l. or 12 l. yearly; and, for that ſum, from 20 to 30 ſcholars are regularly inſtructed in the different branches of education.

There is one inn and two alehouſes in the village.

Cottages.—There are no new houſes built in the pariſh of late, nor cottages, but a great many cottages pulled down, the farmers finding more loſs than profit ariſing from the keeping up of cot-houſes: The throwing down of cottages muſt be one principal reaſon of the decreaſe of population in country pariſhes, and of the increaſe of population in towns and villages, and a principal reaſon of the ſcarcity of ſervants, and the increaſe of their wages; the poor people being baniſhed from the country, take up their reſidence in towns, and breed their children to manufactures, who would otherwiſe have all been bred to the plough; and, if manufactures continue to flouriſh, and this growing evil, of throwing down cottages, and baniſhing the poor from the country parts of pariſhes, is not ſpeedily corrected, it is more than probable that ſervants for carrying on the purpoſes of agriculture will not be obtained.

There is one fair in the year in the village, held upon the 4th of October, originally for black cattle, but now chiefly for the hiring of ſervants, and the ſtoremaſters ſelling their cheeſe.

NUM-

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF CONTIN.

(County of Roſs.—Preſbytery of Dingwall.—Synod of Roſs.)

By the Reverend Mr RODERICK MACKENZIE.

Name, Appearance, and Soil.

CON-TUIN, the meeting of waves, or Co-an-da-avihin, ſignifying the meeting of two rivers, whence the iſland of Contin derives its name.

The appearance of the country is generally hilly and mountainous, the hills in the lower part of the pariſh, near the place of Contin, being moſtly covered with natural wood. There is alſo a great flat of corn lands, belonging to Colonel Mackenzie of Coul, through which the river Raſay runs, all in ſight of the manſion-houſe of Coul, which lies about 200 yards to the north-eaſt of Contin. There is alſo a great deal of corn lands in the ſeveral glens and valleys in the pariſh.—The corn lands, upon the whole, yield pretty good crops, though the ſoil be but light and ſhallow.

Air and Diſeaſes.—The air is rather moiſt, but not unhealthy. The diſeaſes are, ſmall-pox, meaſles, and rheumatiſms; the latter, no doubt, owing to the moiſture of the air, and to the natives giving up the uſe of plaiding or coarſe flannel next their ſkin, in place of which they now wear

linen. They are ſometimes diſtreſſed with fluxes, occaſioned by their feeding moſtly on potatoes. They are moſt ſubject to them in the latter end of ſpring, and beginning of ſummer, when the potatoes have a tendency to grow, and when the people have neither milk, meal, nor onions to eat with them. This year, and the laſt, there was a putrid fever, which made prodigious havoc in a place called Strathbran, where it carried off more than two thirds of the inhabitants, and ſtill continues to rage with violence there. It is found to be very infectious; and its having done ſo much damage in that place is attributed to the unwholeſomeneſs of the air, which has been worſe this year than ever, owing to the extenſive flat in that ſtrath being repeatedly overflowed in the ſummer and harveſt months, and the ſtagnated putrid waters ſending forth noxious vapours that poiſon the air.

Lakes.—There are many lakes and rivers, all of which abound with fiſh of one kind or other, though none draws a price but ſalmon, being at a great diſtance from any market town, and of no ſuch conſideration as to encourage an adventurer to try what could be made of them.—The moſt remarkable lakes are Loch-Achilty, where the char and ſilver trout are ſometimes found. One thing remarkable to be obſerved of this lake is, that there is no viſible running water iſſuing from it except at the time of high ſpeats, although a great quantity falls into it daily. It certainly diſcharges itſelf by ſubterraneous paſſages into the river Raſay, to the weſt of which it lies about three quarters of a mile. It is a mile long; in ſome places very deep. The water is beautifully clear: It has an artificial iſland, a place made for ſafety, where the ruins of a houſe and garden are ſtill to be ſeen. The acceſs is by a draw-bridge. The laſt poſſeſſor's name M'Lea More, the then proprietor of the lands of Achilty and

Jarvie.

Jarvie. The next is Loch-Lichart, in a line to the weſt, four miles long, where there is plenty of trout, ſome weighing four and five pounds. The loch is lined on both ſides with a ridge of high hills, covered with oak and birch wood, with ſome firs, interſperſed here and there with green ſpots for ſhealing, and at both ends, on each ſide, pretty extenſive flats of corn land. The oak wood on this loch-ſide ſold three years ago for 360 l. Betwixt Loch-Lichart and Loch-Bran, on the ſame water, are ſeveral inconſiderable lakes, all abounding with black and white trout; and Loch-Bran abounds with large pike. Several miles to the weſt of that is Loch-Chroſk, abounding with trout. To the north-weſt of Loch-Lichart, four miles diſtance, lies Loch-Fannich, abounding with fiſh, is ſix Scotch miles in length; from it iſſues a ſmall river, called Grudie, which diſcharges itſelf into the Cannon, about one mile above Loch-Lichart.—All the ſtraths are liable to inundations. The moſt remarkable ones happened in March 1789; and this very year, (1791) the greateſt part of the corn lands were twice overflowed this harveſt in the courſe of 20 days, by which the crop was much damaged.—There is a very remarkable echo on the farm of Kinellan; it will echo a whole ſentence perfectly diſtinct. It is believed to be unequalled, unleſs by an echo in Wales, and another in Staffa, the latter of which is of a very different nature.

Animals, &c.—The pariſh principally abounds in black cattle, horſes, ſheep, goats, deer, roe, foxes, wild cats, polecats, badgers, and otters.—Common fowls of various kinds; turkeys, geeſe, wild and tame, ducks of different ſpecies, ſwans, maws, gulls, curlieus, cranes, herons, ſcarfs, king's-fiſher, muir-fowl, heath-fowl, plovers, ſnipes, hawks of various kinds, the black and grey eagles, ravens, rooks, crows, owls.

owls. And on the higheſt hills, tarmagans, migrating birds, lapwings appear in ſpring, wood-cocks in the latter end of harveſt, cuckoos in April; May, ſwallows of various kinds, and three kinds of bats, ſuppoſed ſleeping birds.

Population.—In Dr Webſter's liſt in 1755, the numbers are ſtated at 1949; at preſent, there are 2000 above the age of ſeven years.—There is in the pariſh one woman aged 101 now living, and has the uſe of all her faculties. There is alſo an out-penſioner of Chelſea Hoſpital upwards of 90 years old, who has drawn the penſion for 45 years.—There are a ſufficiency of ſquare-wrights, ſmiths, weavers, taylors, and ſhoemakers, for carrying on the work of the pariſh.—Two ferry-men, one over the Raſay at Contin, and another over the Connon, three miles to the weſt of Contin, at a place called Little Scatwell.—All the people are of the eſtabliſhed Church except 50 or 60 Epiſcopalians.—The population is on the increaſe, but it is feared will ſoon decreaſe, as the gentlemen are encouraging ſhepherds to come and ſettle on their properties, which muſt neceſſarily remove the preſent inhabitants, and force them to go in queſt of bread to other countries, as there are no manufactures eſtabliſhed here to employ them.

Productions.—Cabbages, turnips, potatoes, and various kinds of garden ſtuffs.—Fir trees, planted and natural, oak, birch, elm, alder, ſauchs of different kinds, mapple, mountain aſh, plains, beech, ſeveral remarkable large ones at the place of Coul, and fruit trees of various kinds.—There is a ſufficiency of corn grown for ſupporting the inhabitants; but, owing to the number of diſtillers of whiſky, of which there are no leſs than three diſtilleries in this pariſh, there are imported annually about 300 bolls of barley from the neighbouring pa-

riſhes,

ſhes, principally from Eaſter Roſs.—About 50 acres are in ſown graſs on the Mains of Coul, and a few acres on another farm. The farmers have ſeldom ſowed any, (except a few pounds in their gardens); nor can they be prevailed upon to do it, though they have got long leaſes from Colonel Mackenzie of Coul, (19 years) to encourage them to raiſe graſs; and the ſoil is found to be admirably calculated for it, yielding from 200 to 300 ſtones the acre. Colonel Mackenzie has not impoſed one ſhilling of additional rent upon his whole property in this pariſh.—They begin to ſow oats and rye in February; but, in moſt places, in the latter end of March, and whole of April. Barley is ſown by the beginning of May, and finiſhed by the 12th of June; notwithſtanding of which, the harveſt is much earlier than in any of the neighbouring pariſhes, and was ſafely ingathered even this very year by the end of October.—There is great plenty of ſhelly marl now diſcovered in the Loch of Kinellan, upon the eſtate of Coul; and the proprietor, at his own expence, has ſo far drained the Loch, as to have eaſy acceſs to the working of the marl; and the tenants have full liberty to take from it whatever quantity they pleaſe for the uſe of their lands. The Lake is alſo ſurrounded with ſtone-marl, which has been found by the farmers there to meliorate the ground very much. This Lake lies five miles to the weſt of Dingwall. There is lime-ſtone alſo found on the Coul property, but difficult to work. There was this year diſcovered, on the property of Mr Mackenzie of Strathgarvie, (a minor), a rich lime-ſtone quarry, which could be eaſily wrought, and to great advantage, there being plenty of peats and wood cloſs by the quarry. The proprietor of the quarry has cloſe by it betwixt 300 and 400 acres of arable ground admirably calculated for lime, on which property there are no leſs, at preſent, than 50 or 60 families, without any induſtry, or any

thing

thing to ſupport them, but what corn they are able to raiſe from theſe fields, which ſets now at about 7 s. 6 d. the acre. The quarry lies cloſs by Lochmalin, about 12 miles to the weſt of Dingwall.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The Gaelic and Engliſh languages are both ſpoken in the pariſh, but Gaelic chiefly. All names of villages and places are derived from the Gaelic. The rental of the pariſh is between 1300 l. and 1400 l.—The ſalmon fiſhing ſets at about 20 l.

Church and Poor.—The miniſter's ſtipend is 1000 merks, and one chalder of victual, and the glebe would ſet at 7 l. Sterling. The King is patron.—The number of heritors is 9, none of whom reſide in it.—There are only 10 poor people who receive charity. The moſt indigent of them get a weekly ſupply from the ſeſſion. The annual amount of the contributions for the relief of the poor, in the pariſh church, ſeldom exceeds 40 s.; there is a ſmall legacy left to the poor of the pariſh by a Mrs St Clair, who died at Jamaica, a native of this pariſh, daughter to Mr Æneas Morriſon miniſter of Contin, and which, owing to miſmanagement, only amounted to 84 l. although ſhe bequeathed them 100 l.

Proviſions.—Proviſions ſell reaſonably; beef and mutton, from 2 d. to 3 d. a pound; veal and lamb, from 3 d. to 4 d.; pork, 2½ d.; hens, never above 4 d. each; butter, 6 d. the pound; cheeſe, 2¾; barley, 15 s. and 16 s. the boll; oats, the ſame, having one fifth more in the meaſure.—Common day labourers receive 6 d. *per* day; carpenters and maſons, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.—A common labourer having 6 bolls of meal, 3 l. Sterling of wages for the year, with one fourth acre potatoe ground, is able to ſupport himſelf, a wife, and two children.

children. Men ſervants commonly get from 3 l. to 4 l. wages in the year; and women ſervants, from 30 s. to 2 l.—The feuel conſiſts of peat, wood, heath, whins, and broom. Peats ſell at 6 d. the ſmall cart.

Character of the People.—The people, in general, are ſober, and very oeconomical; but averſe to induſtry, never working but from neceſſity. The riſing generation are rather fond of gay clothing, the manufacture of other countries, which exhauſts all their ſubſtance, and keeps them conſtantly poor. There is no manufacture in the pariſh. The people are generally very contented with their ſituation, and have the neceſſaries of life in abundance. They are perfectly honeſt, and religiouſly inclined. Their condition might be eaſily made better, were there any manufactures eſtabliſhed amongſt them; a linen or woollen one would anſwer extremely well. The women would be made induſtrious by this means. There is plenty of fine ſoft water in this place, for waſhing, bleaching, and whitening linen cloth; and there are plains of any extent required for forming a bleachfield, into which water might be brought at a trifling expence; beſides, ſuch is the quality of the water, that one fourth of the expence of ſoap, &c. would be ſaved.

The beſt arable land in this pariſh ſets at 14 s. 6 d. the acre, and the loweſt at 2 s. 6 d —The farms in this pariſh are from 100 l. to 2 l.; for the moſt part they are from 15 l. to 8 l.—There is not an incloſure in the pariſh, but thoſe on the Mains of Coul. The people are averſe to incloſures, as they wiſh to have all kinds of paſture in common. The ſituation of the pariſh, in 1782 and 1783, was truly deplorable, and no doubt many of the poorer ſort muſt have died from want, were it not for the timely ſupply of corn ſent by government to this country. One remarkable circumſtance

to

to be obſerved was, that although theſe years produced little or no corn, they were particularly favourable for the growth of graſs, which yielded immenſe quantities of milk, the principal ſupport of the inhabitants; and the kind providence of God was very remarkably ſeen towards the poorer ſort, in cauſing the ſheep and goats, the only cattle they had, to yield greater quantities, and more fruitful milk, than they were ever known to do before, or ever ſince. Another favourable circumſtance for the inhabitants was, that there was a great demand for cattle, (the ſtaple commodity of the pariſh), and that they ſold at high prices.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF IRVINE.

(*County of Ayr.—Preſbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.*)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES RICHMOND.

Name and Situation.

IRVINE, or, according to its ancient orthography, Irwine, and Earwine, is a ſeaport town ſituated near the mouth of the river of Irvine, in the Bailleary of Cuningham, and ſhire of Ayr. It was originally in the province of Galloway, which antiently comprehended not only the county now known by that name, and the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, but alſo the greateſt part, if not the whole, of Ayrſhire. Even at ſo late a period as the reign of Robert Bruce, the Caſtle of Irvine was accounted to be in Galloway. There is reaſon to ſuppoſe, that a people of Saxon original encroached by degrees on the ancient Galloway. The names of places in Cuningham are generally Saxon; the name of the diſtrict itſelf is Saxon, though, according to Buchanan, it is ſaid to be Daniſh, and ſignifies the King's Houſe, or the Reſidence of the King *. The town of Irvine ſtands on a riſing ground, of a ſandy ſoil, to the north of the river, and about half a mile diſtant from the harbour, which lies nearly

* See Sir David Dalrymple's Annals, vol. I. p. 106.

to the ſouth-weſt of it. It is dry and well aired, has one broad ſtreet running through it, from the ſouth-eaſt, bending a little to the ſouth about the middle, and terminating in the north-weſt. On the ſouth ſide of the river, but connected with the town by a ſtone bridge, there is a row of houſes on each ſide of the road leading to the harbour, theſe are moſtly of one ſtorey, with finiſhed garrets, and occupied chiefly by ſeafaring people. On part of the great road leading to Ayr, which interſects this ſtreet, nigh to the bridge, are the ſame kind of buildings. The moſt of theſe buildings have been erected within theſe 40 or 50 years, and are increaſing every year.

They are not within the royalty, and form no part of the ancient burgh, being ſituated in the pariſh of Dundonald, and annexed to Irvine, *quoad ſacra*, only. Part of theſe lands, however, belong to the town, as alſo the quay, on which there are ſeveral ſtore-houſes, coal-yards, and an inn or public houſe, which, by a ſingular feu, has the excluſive privilege of ſelling ale and ſpirits there. It appears, from the records of the burgh, that Alexander II. granted a charter to the burgeſſes of Irvine, confirming ſome other royal grants, but from whom theſe were obtained, is now uncertain. No mention is here made of their other charters, which are many. From one granted by Robert II. it appears, that the burgeſſes of Irvine were in poſſeſſion of the whole barony of Cuningham and Largs. The magiſtrates of Irvine do not now enjoy ſo extenſive a juriſdiction.

Extent, Soil, and Rent of the Pariſh.—The pariſh of Irvine, at its greateſt length, is about 5 miles, extending from the ſea on the ſouth-weſt, to the pariſh of Stewarton on the north-eaſt. At its greateſt breadth it is about 2 miles, and is bounded by the river Annock, which ſeparates it from the

pariſh

parish of Dreghorn on the south-east and east; by the parish of Kilwinning on the north and north-east; by the river Garnock on the north-west, and by the river of Irvine, which separates it from the parish of Dundonald, on the south. To the north-west of the town, there is a commonty belonging to it, of above 300 acres, of a sandy soil, and partly covered with whin and short broom. If laid off in proper inclosures, and rented to the inhabitants, it might be worth 20 s. or 30 s. *per* acre in a few years. Adjoining to this, and immediately at the back of the town, there was formerly a large loch, which, about the beginning of this century, was drained by the Rev. Mr Warner, and is now arable. To the north-east, the town have a considerable tract of land, yielding a revenue of about 500 l. *per annum*. The lower part of the parish is flat and sandy. To the north-east of the town, it consists of a light loam; in some parts the soil is mixed with gravel; all of it produces heavy crops of all different kinds of corn and grass. Towards the extremity of the parish, the situation is more elevated and the soil of a stiffish clay.

There is only one gentleman's seat in the parish, Bourtreehill. It is well laid out, and highly improved, by the Hon. Mr Hamilton, who resides upon it. Nigh to this seat, there is an old castle of a square form, belonging to the Earl of Eglintoune, whose seat is also about a mile from Irvine to the north, and the town lands on that quarter are all along bounded by his Lordship's policy. This castle is said to be the remains of an ancient nunnery, where there was a chapel, church-yard, and a small village. The face of the country is greatly beautified by circular plantations on most of the eminences. The farms are large, the farm houses are mostly new, very neat and convenient.

Rivers.

Rivers.—There are no rivers which run through the parish. The river of Irvine, which takes its rise to the east of Loudonhill, in the parish of Loudon, in times of floods, carries great quantities of sand along with it, chiefly after it passes Irvine, which being thrown out at the Bar, is gradually removing it to a greater distance from the harbour. The depth of water, from the Quay to the Bar, is generally from 9 to 11 feet at spring tides. In high storms, with the wind from the south or south-west, it is sometimes 16 feet.

Roads —The roads leading to and from the town are, 1*st*, The Kilmarnock road to the south-east. 2*d*, The Ayr road to the south. 3*d*, The Greenock road by Kilwinning to the north-west; and, 4*th*, The Glasgow road by Stewarton to the north-east. They are all kept in tolerable repair by the statute labour, which is converted into money, and paid to the trustees. Three shillings Sterling are paid by every householder in the town for that purpose, which, in many instances, is a very hard and oppressive tax, especially in sea-port towns, where there are so many sailors widows, left with numerous families, and often in poor circumstances. This is an evil which calls for redress. Besides the statute money, there are tolls nigh to the town, on the Stewartoun, Kilmarnock, and Ayr roads.

A fly goes regularly from this to Glasgow, by Kilwinning, Dalry, Beath, and Paisley, three times every week. A stage coach runs from this to Greenock twice in the week, and continues to be well employed.

Manufactures.—Manufactures, as yet, are not carried on here to any extent. The young men, in general, are sailors, or go abroad to the West Indies and America as storekeepers and planters. Many from this place and the neighbourhood

hood have gone to the Eaſt Indies, and are ſtill going out. Some in the mercantile line, others in the phyſical, ſeafaring, and military, and ſome in each of theſe profeſſions, have lately returned from thence with large fortunes. Many of our young men are alſo employed as ſhipmaſters and ſailors from Clyde.

The number of the incorporated trades are nearly as follows, viz. weavers, 116; ſhoemakers, 56; ſmiths, 24; taylors, 27; coopers, 7; maſons and wrights, 80.—There are of other employments:

Maltſters	10	Copperſmiths	3
Maſter Butchers	6	Tinkers	4
Bakers	7	Barbers	6
Cloth merchants	6	Coal hewers	150
Chandlers	2	Carters	60
Phyſician	1	Carriers to Kilmarnock	2
Surgeons	3	——— to Paiſley	2
Writers	5	——— to Glaſgow	2
Sadlers	2	——— to Greenock	2
Druggiſts	2		

Beſides theſe, there are a great many carts belonging to the country employed in carrying blind coals from Kilmarnock, Riccartoun, and Fairley. There are three maſter ſhip-builders, a tanwork, a ropework, and a bleachfield. One whiſky ſtill, which conſumes about 950 bolls of malt yearly. One ſmall brewery, moſt of the ale being brewed by retailers themſelves. Many private families brew their own beer; and, of late, the practice of brewing ſtrong ale has been much revived.

There are a great many grocers and ſmall huckſter ſhops, and four or five hardware ſhops. Weavers of ſilk gauze, muſlins, &c. and ſome other tradeſmen employed in the town and ſuburbs, are not entered with the corporations, nor included in the above liſt. Their numbers are daily increaſing.

creasing. About three years ago, a company of manufacturers in Glasgow set on foot a tambour-work here, and have now about 70 girls employed, who earn from 15 d. to 2 s. *per* week.

Last year a spinning Jenny was erected, which employs about 80 hands, whose wages are from 1 s. to 9 s. *per* week. And two others are erected since in the suburbs, which give employment to about 50 each.

Commerce.—The exports and imports of this place have rapidly increased of late. Coals have always been the chief article of our export. Formerly they were carried in small brigs and sloops to the different ports of Ireland: Their size is now greatly enlarged, and their numbers are increased. By an accurate list made up in the Customhouse on the 30th September 1790, it appears, that the number belonging to Irvine was 51 vessels, the tonnage of which amounted to 3682 tons. They are of various sizes. The largest is 160 tons, the smallest 33 tons, excepting one of 17, and one of 10 tons, which are packets employed between this and Greenock. It appears from the same list, that these vessels are navigated by 305 sailors, all belonging to this place.—There are 49 vessels belonging to Saltcoats and Largs, which are branches of this port, the tonnage of which amounts to 4166. Many of these vessels, as well as vessels from the different ports of Ireland, and other places, come here for coals. Above 24,000 tons of coals are exported from this yearly. The exportation of coals from this took place, in a small degree, towards the end of the last century: They were carried coastways in birlings or small boats. When these arrived, they blew a large horn, which was fixed to a post at the quay by an iron chain; and, upon this signal, the country people loaded their coal poneys or small horses, and carried down

down what quantities were wanted. The coals here are of an excellent quality, make a very quick and chearful fire; and, anſwering the purpoſes of baking and brewing better than any other coals from this coaſt, bring the higheſt prices in Ireland. Their price, delivered at the quay, is 9 s. *per* chalder, Wincheſter meaſure. Their ordinary price in Ireland is ſeldom under 16 s.

Conſiderable quantities of woollen carpets and carpetins, muſlins, and ſtuffs of ſilk, lawns, gauzes, and linen called Kentings, are exported from this to Ireland. The lawns, gauzes, muſlins, and ſilks, are brought from Paiſley. The bounty for ſilks exported in the year 1790 amounted to 236l. It has often exceeded that ſum, and ſometimes riſen to 800 l. The chief articles of our import are hemp, iron, Memel and Norway wood, ſhip-timber, chiefly from Wales, raw hides, kins, and grain, from Ireland. 10,000 Quarters of grain have ſometimes been imported from Ireland in one year. Great quantities are alſo brought coaſtways from Galloway. The county of Ayr is ſuppoſed to produce grain ſufficient for the conſumpt of its inhabitants. Paiſley, Glaſgow, and the more inland parts of the country, conſume what is imported.

Population.—In 1755, by Dr Webſter's liſt the numbers were 4025. The town and ſuburbs have increaſed ſince that period. The country part of the pariſh has been diminiſhed. From an enumeration made in 1781, it appears, that there were in the town, country, and ſuburbs, 4391 ſouls; and, from an enumeration made in December 1790, their numbers are 4500. This increaſe has chiefly taken place in the ſuburbs or annexed part of the pariſh, the numbers in the town having rather decreaſed, owing to the taking down of ſome old houſes, each of which contained many families; whereas the new ones built in their place are occupied by

one

one or two families at moſt. This laſt enumeration was made after an unuſual mortality by the ſmall-pox, and a nervous fever, which made its appearance about the beginning of Auguſt that year. The births, deaths, and marriages, as contained in the pariſh regiſter for theſe laſt ten years, are as under, viz.

Years.	*Births.*	*Deaths.*	*Marriages.*
1781,	112	137	30
1782,	100	78	30
1783,	98	79	24
1784,	118	145	27
1785,	105	117	45
1786,	117	89	43
1787,	114	112	29
1788,	127	116	40
1789,	113	97	41
1790,	131	163	30

In the years 1781, 1784, and 1790, the ſmall-pox were in the town. In the year 1784, 54 died of that diſeaſe; and, in the year 1790, 57 died of the ſame diſeaſe, and about 24 of the fever. Inoculation here, till of late, was not in general practice.

Character of the People.—Perhaps in no ſea-port town of the ſame extent are the inhabitants more ſober and induſtrious than in this. They are ſocial and chearful, but ſeldom riotous, it being very unuſual for any perſons to be ſeen upon the ſtreet after 12 o'clock at night. The people, in general, are in eaſy circumſtances; many of them are wealthy, and all of them remarkably hoſpitable. They are happy in each other's ſociety, and entertain frequently and well. Their entertainments are more ſubſtantial than ſhowy; though in this, upon occaſions, they are by no means defective. As a proof

proof of their moderation and good conduct, there has not for many years been an inſtance of bankruptcy among them, one or two incomers only excepted. They are humane and generous, though theſe qualities may not, in every inſtance, be exerted with neceſſary prudence; and this perhaps is one reaſon of the ſtreets being ſo much infeſted with vagrant poor. In other inſtances their liberality has been well directed.

Church.—The church of Irvine is beautifully ſituated on the ſummit of a riſing ground, to the ſouth of the town, and nigh to the river *. It is an oblong ſquare of 80 feet in length, by 60 in breadth. The lofts form an octagon in the inſide, and, gradually aſcending, place every hearer in full view of the preacher. At each angle there is a maſſy pillar of wood from the ground-floor to the roof of the church. The area below is neatly fitted up with pews, all of them facing the pulpit. Three-fourths of the church were built by the magiſtrates, and one-fourth by the other heritors. The communion tables conſiſt of two rows of table ſeats, extending from the pulpit, on the north-weſt, to the ſouth-eaſt door, the partitions of which form the ends of ſaid ſeats, and are moveable at pleaſure. Theſe ſeats are the property of the ſeſſion, and yield from 8 l. to 9 l. annually.—The magiſtrates, reſerving one loft for themſelves, diſpoſed of the reſt of their property to the inhabitants, who fitted up their own ſeats, according to a plan previouſly agreed upon. The money which they raiſed in this manner defrayed their ſhare of the expence of building the church, and left them an overplus of near 300 l. This ſum they laid out, with an addition of near 500 l. more, in building a very elegant

* The church was rebuilt in the year 1774.

ſteeple adjoining to the church on the north-weſt ſide. The ſteeple, at its baſe, is 14 feet ſquare.

Poor.—The poor of this place have greatly increaſed within theſe 50 years. This is aſcribed to a variety of different cauſes. At that time, it was conſidered as diſgraceful to receive ſupply from the ſeſſion; and none but ſuch as were in the moſt diſtreſſed circumſtances ever thought of making application to it. By this they were led to make every exertion for their own ſupport; and their children, from the ſame principle, acquired early habits of induſtry.

The country was then parcelled out in ſmall farms, and employed a greater number of hands in the cultivation of it. Their incomes, though ſmall, afforded them, in general, the certain means of ſubſiſtence. Few ever thought of reſorting to towns, but ſuch as could live upon their money, or upon the profits of their particular callings. When the farms were enlarged, as they now are, theſe cottagers or ſmall tenants crowded into towns or neighbouring villages; and, being bred to no buſineſs, they ſoon exhauſted their little ſtock, and became burdens upon the public. The conſequence of the ſuppreſſion of cottagers is felt, and will be more and more felt in many different ways throughout Scotland.

The funds chiefly ariſe from the intereſt of a ſmall ſtock of money, and a mortification of ſome lands, public collections, proclamation of banns, baptiſms, legacies, mort-cloths, ſeat rents, &c. The moſt neceſſitous of the poor are ſupplied by weekly penſions, which are from 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. *per* week; and ſuch as need occaſional ſupply to aſſiſt their own induſtry, by precepts and watering rolls. Precepts are diſtributions made by the ſeſſion, as occaſion requires. Watering rolls are the diſtributions which are made at each Sacrament, which is twice every year.—A Bailie Gray of this place ſome

time

time ago burdened his ſubjects with 1 l. 10s. annually for the education of poor children. Mr Stewart, a druggiſt here, has lately diſponed his ſubject, in value about 300 l. to the poor, reſerving to himſelf and wife (they have no children) the liferent of it. The magiſtrates and heritors, who are required every year to attend at ſettling the treaſurer's accounts, are well acquainted with the ſtate of the funds; and, when neceſſary, they voluntarily aſſeſs themſelves in ſuch ſums as the ſupport of the poor requires, thereby wiſely preventing a general *ſtent*. There are of late ſeveral ſocieties eſtabliſhed here for the ſupport of the poor belonging to each, which, in time, will operate greatly to the relief of the poor's funds.

Schools.—There are in Irvine two public ſchools, and ſeveral private ones. Before our connection with America was diſſolved, many young men from that country and the Weſt Indies were ſent here for their education. Mr Cunningham, who was then rector, and had always a doctor under him, had frequently from 20 to 26 boarders in his houſe. The character of the ſchool is now, perhaps, as high as ever it was; though, unfortunately for that branch of education, it is conſidered by the people at large as of leſs importance than it uſed to be. The rector's ſalary is 18 l.; his perquiſites ariſe from births and marriages. The Engliſh teacher's ſalary is 10 l. His perquiſites ariſe from teſtimonials and his ſalary as ſeſſion-clerk. There are about 30 boys at the grammar ſchool; at the Engliſh, about 70 ſcholars. At private hours they teach arithmetic, writing, book-keeping, mathematics, French, geography, &c. There is a ſchool-miſtreſs eſtabliſhed here, who teaches all kinds of needle-work.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—There is one miniſter only. He has an aſſiſtant, whoſe ſalary is 40 l.; 15 l. of which

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is paid out of the town's funds, 10 l. by ſeſſion ſeats, and the reſt by an annual contribution among the inhabitants. The miniſter's ſtipend, till 1785, was 7 chalders of victual, chiefly meal, and near 100 l. Scots. At that time he obtained an augmentation of 400 l. Scots. The glebe, originally about one acre and an half, has received an addition of ſix acres and an half. Irvine is the ſeat of the preſbytery, which conſiſts of 18 miniſters, and belongs to the ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. This ſynod meets at Irvine once every third year. There were many learned, grave, and pious miniſters, (ſays Mr Warner, in his preface to Niſbet's Expoſition on Eccleſiaſtes), who, in ſuffering times, being put from their own charges, came and reſided in this place, eſpecially during the times of Meſſrs Hutchiſon's and Stirling's miniſtry here. In the year 1662, Mr George Hutchiſon was ſilenced by the Parliament for not giving obedience to his biſhop. By a ſubſequent act of the ſame year, he was baniſhed from Edinburgh; and, upon paſſing the act of indulgence, he was appointed by the privy council to preach and exerciſe the other functions of the miniſtry at Irvine in 1669, where he died. He is the author of an Expoſition on the book of Job, and on ſome of the minor prophets. They are works of conſiderable merit. Mr Dickſon's works are well known: He was alſo a miniſter in Irvine. They were both of them men of eminent learning and abilities at that time, as was alſo their cotemporary Mr Niſbet, as appears from the honourable teſtimony which they and others have borne of him, and from his Expoſition of Eccleſiaſtes, and the two Epiſtles of Peter. His epitaph, as wrote by one of his brethren, is in theſe words: '*Grande aliquid vultu nituit, greſſuque decoro, grandius in magni dotibus ingenii.*' His grandſon, Mr Alexander Niſbet, is ſtill living in Irvine, a bachelor, and enjoys great health and ſpirits at the advanced age of 83.

There

There is in this place a Relief Meeting-houſe; and, belonging to it, there are, as nearly as could be collected, about 240. The miniſter's ſtipend is 70 l. raiſed partly by ſubſcription and partly by their ordinary collections.

Buchanites.—Upon the death of Mr Jack, firſt Relief miniſter in this place, that congregation made choice of Mr Whyte to be his ſucceſſor. Mr Whyte being called to aſſiſt at the Sacrament in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, a Mrs Buchan had an opportunity of hearing him; and, captivated by his oratory, ſhe communicated unto him by letter the flattering account of his being the firſt miniſter who as yet had ſpoken effectually to her heart; expreſſing, at the ſame time, a deſire of viſiting him at Irvine, that ſhe might be further confirmed in the faith.

This letter he ſhowed to ſome of his people who gave her a very welcome reception; and, from her heavenly converſation, and extraordinary gifts, they began to conſider her as a very valuable acquiſition to their party. Religion was the conſtant topic of her converſation: In all companies, and upon all occaſions, ſhe introduced it. Her time was wholly employed in viſiting from houſe to houſe, in making family worſhip, ſolving doubts, anſwering queſtions, and expounding the Scriptures. Some of the congregation began to entertain ſuſpicions of the orthodoxy of her principles, all of which had been implicitly imbibed by their miniſter. They expreſſed their diſſatisfaction with his miniſtry, and deſired him to diſmiſs her as a dangerous perſon. He refuſed to comply with their requeſt: They threatened to libel him. He remained firm to her intereſt; and in this he was ſupported by ſome of the moſt wealthy of his hearers. They drew up a paper, containing what they ſuppoſed to be her

principles

principles and his, and deſired him to declare whether theſe were his principles. He acknowledged that they were, and readily ſubſcribed them as ſuch.

They carried the matter before their preſbytery, who thought proper to *depoſe* him from the office of the miniſtry. He returned to Irvine, accompanied by his adherents, delivered up the keys of the church, and preached for ſome time in a tent, and afterwards in his own houſe.

The curioſity of the public was excited, and many frequented his meetings.—Strange accounts were given of their doctrine and manner of worſhip. They uſually met in the night time, and were inſtructed by this pretended propheteſs. She gave herſelf out to be the woman ſpoken of in the 12th chapter of the Revelation, and that Mr Whyte was the manchild ſhe had brought forth. This, and ſome other ravings ſhe uttered, drew upon her and her party the indignation of the populace. Idle people aſſembled at different times in a tumultuous manner, ſurrounded the houſe, broke the windows and furniture, and would have proceeded to greater extremities, had it not been for the interpoſition of the magiſtrates. After repeated applications from different members of the Relief congregation to have her apprehended, and proceeded againſt as a blaſphemer, the magiſtrates thought it prudent to diſmiſs her from the place, which was accordingly done May 1784.

To protect the woman from inſult, they accompanied her about a mile out of town; but, notwithſtanding all their efforts, ſhe was groſsly inſulted by the mob, thrown into ditches, and otherwiſe ill uſed by the way. She took up her reſidence that night, with ſome of her followers, in the neighbourhood of Kilmaurs; and, being joined by Mr Whyte and others in the morning, the whole company, about 40 in number, proceeded

ceeded on their way to Mauchline, and from thence to Cumnock and to Cloſeburn, in Dumfries-ſhire, ſinging as they went, and ſaying that they were going to the New Jeruſalem.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The climate here is much the ſame as in other places on the weſt coaſt, more mild and temperate than in higher and more inland parts of the country; the ſnow often lying on theſe when there is none here, and the froſt ſeverer and of longer continuance. The town, from its ſituation, being at the diſtance of one mile from the ſea, and elevated above it, is reckoned very healthy.

No epidemical diſtempers, but ſuch as are common in other places, prevail here.

For theſe laſt 17 years, the fever has appeared twice only. The firſt of theſe times it was neither of ſo bad a kind, nor ſo mortal, as in other places in the neighbourhood. In 1790 and 1791, it was general, and of long continuance, though not above 24 died of it. The *influenza*, as it was called, which raged in this country ſome years ago, was general here alſo, but of ſhort continuance, and none of the inhabitants died of it. In the year 1760, many of the inhabitants of this place died of the bloody *flux*. The infection, it is ſaid, was brought from Ireland. The moſt remarkable inſtances of longevity in this pariſh are, a man of the name of Grant, who died in the 105th year of his age; four of the ſame family, whoſe ages were as under; the father 92, his ſon 86, his grandſon 83, his great-grandſon 80. A woman died laſt year aged 103. Some are living, and in good health, 84 and upwards, one of 94.

No perſon belonging to this place has been tried for any capital crime theſe 40 years. Some have been baniſhed the town for petty thefts, and other immoralities.

Priſoners.

Priſoners.—23 Perſons were committed to priſon during the laſt year; 12 of theſe for debt, moſt of them from the country; 5 for a riot in Saltcoats againſt the preſbytery, who had gone there, at the requeſt of the inhabitants, to inſpect the ſtate of the ſchool-houſe. All of them ſtood trial before the Circuit Court at Ayr; four of them were found guilty; but, by an error in the verdict, were diſmiſſed; two by lawburrows, two for riotous conduct, and two for petty crimes.

Ancient Religious Orders.—In this town there was a convent belonging to the Carmelite or White Friars. This order, as is well known, took its name from being originally placed in a monaſtery by the Patriarch of Antioch on Mount Carmel, about the year 1160. Being expelled thence in the 1238, they came into Europe; and, in the reign of Alexander III. into Scotland, where they had ſix convents beſides the one at this town.

Though not the ſmalleſt veſtige of the buildings now remain, ſeveral perſons remember to have ſeen ſome fragments of its walls a little from the ſouth corner of the preſent church-yard; and that piece of ground being now in my poſſeſſion, I lately dug up part of their foundation. It ſtood near the brink of the river, which was a ſituation proper for the monks of that order, whoſe principal food conſiſted of fiſh; and, contiguous to the ſame ſpot there is a well, ſtill called the Chapel Well.

That this friary was founded by the family of Fullarton is certain, but in what year cannot now be known, as there is reaſon to believe that the foundation charter is loſt. It is, however, very probable that it was before the death of Alexander III. in the 1285, as the diſtracted ſtate of the nation for many years after was very unfavourable for erections of this ſort. The firſt authentic account that we find relative

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to this convent, which, from its purport, may be ſuppoſed to be long after its foundation, is from a contract and indenture, dated at Irvine, 24th Auguſt 1399, between Reynald Fullarton of that Ilk, and the provincial brethren and convent of the Carmelite Friars near Irvine, for the purpoſe of paying 40 merks *, for meliorating and upholding the houſes of the ſaid convent, and for repairing the principal kirk and cloiſter; and they were thereby obliged, in all time coming, to pray weekly, on the Lord's day, or any other feaſt day, in the beginning of a maſs at the great altar, with *an audible voice*, for the ſouls of Sir Adam, and Marjory his wife, and for Reynald, and Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs and ſucceſſors, and for the ſouls of all the faithful deceaſed.

We are informed of ſome emoluments which belonged to this friary, from an act paſſed in the reign of James VI. which does much honour to the memory of that Prince. It ought therefore to be more particularly known, and ſhould render the name of James dear to the inhabitants of this town. At a time when the church livings belonging to the Popiſh clergy were generally beſtowed upon court paraſites, we find this Monarch appropriating what was within the liberties of this burgh to a much more laudable purpoſe.

This act bears, that his Majeſty had made a *perpetual* grant to the provoſt, bailies, counſellors, and community of the burgh of Irvine, and their ſucceſſors, "of all and ſingular the lands, houſes, buildings, churches, chaplainaries, orchards, gardens, crofts, annualrents, fruits, rents, profits, emoluments, farms, alms, anniverſaries of deaths whatever," which any way pertained to any chaplainaries, alterages, and prebendaries within any church, chaplainary, or college, founded by any patrons of the ſame within the liberties of the ſaid burgh

* 51l. 11s. 1⅓d. Sterling.

of Irvine: As also, of six bolls of multure belonging to the Carmelite order, all united into one tenement, to be called in time coming, *The King's foundation of the School of Irvine.*

Miscellaneous Observations.—The town-house stands nearly in the middle of the street; but the street at that place is of so great a breadth, that the building may be considered as no incumbrance. It is executed in a plain, substantial manner. In the ground-floor is the town-clerk's office, with a room for the meetings of council. The rest is appropriated to shops. Over the entry to the council chamber the town's arms are cut in stone, being a lion rampant-guardant, with a sword in one of his fore paws, and a sceptre in the other. Motto,—*Tandem bona causa triumphat.* Higher up in the wall are also the British arms, very neatly cut in stone.

In the town there are two branches of banking-houses; that of the Old Paisley Bank, and of the Ayr Bank. There is only one fair worth notice; it is called the "Marrymas Fair," which begins on the third Monday of August, and continues the whole week.

The principal commodities are linen, cloth, horses, wool, &c.—The bridge over the river of Irvine, being the road to the quay and to the town of Ayr, was rebuilt in 1748, and consists of four semicircular arches. It is too narrow for two carriages to pass each other. The tide flows about a quarter of a mile higher. There is one mill belonging to the town, and at a little distance from it, on the water of Annock. It pays, of yearly rent, about 60 l. The inhabitants are thirled to this mill, and pay 6 d. *per* boll for grinding oats and malt. The meal and flesh markets are on the north side of the street, a little to the east of the council-house. There is no public slaughter-house. The inhabitants pay one penny of toll for each cart of coals. Coals to the shore for exportation pay none.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF KIRKGUNZEON.

(Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Preſbytery of Dumfries.—Synod of Dumfries.)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES HERON.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Kirkgunzeon is about five miles long, and three miles broad. Of old it belonged to the abbacy of Holm-Coltern, in Cumberland; but the people of that abbacy having taken part with the Engliſh againſt the Scots in the reign of David Bruce, the King forfeited their property in Scotland, and beſtowed it by charter, dated at Dunfermline, the 7th of June 1369, on Sir John Herries of Terregles, who was brother to the Earl of Vendome in France, and who had come into Scotland with King David Bruce after his captivity in the year 1341, and aſſumed the name of Herries, from Heriſſons, or porcupines, which he bore in his arms, now quartered with the Maxwells of Nithſdale.

Soil, Appearance, and Agriculture.—The appearance of the country is rather hilly; but there is a good deal of fine flat land in the pariſh. Some of the hills are healthy, and fit for ſheep only; others are green, and are both ſerviceable for tillage and feeding of black cattle. The low land is moſtly

ly of a very fertile nature; but, in general, much interrupted with ſmall ſwamps, little ſtony hills, and large ſingle ſtones, which renders the tillage difficult and irregular. Several of the farmers, however, are clearing away the ſtones, and turning them to the advantageous purpoſe of dividing their fields, in which laudable undertaking they are greatly encouraged by Mr Maxwell Conſtable of Nithſdale, who is proprietor of more than ſeven-eights of the pariſh. This gentleman, if the tenant raiſes and leads the ſtones, allows him the price of the building, which may generally be computed to be more than one third of the whole expence. The tenant raiſing and leading the ſtones at his leiſure times, does not feel the burthen; nor is his rent augmented by perpetual intereſt. It has likewiſe for ſome time been the practice of the proprietor of this eſtate to renew the leaſes about three years before they are out, which both prevents the tenants from uſing their farms in the ſame manner they might be inclined were they uncertain of remaining, and gives the landlord an opportunity of looking after the management of ſuch as are to remove. There are other five properties in the pariſh; one of theſe is almoſt in a ſtate of nature; the other four are well incloſed, ſubdivided, and interſperſed with clumps and belts of planting. The farm of Lochend, in particular, on which a ſmall diſtillery has lately been erected, is in the higheſt pitch of improvement, and ſhows, in a ſtrong point of view, the effects of cultivation. This farm, a few years ſince, was not worth above one ſixth of its preſent value. There have been good crops of wheat theſe two laſt years upon fields which were lately covered with heath and ruſhes. The number of acres in the pariſh are about 8000; thoſe in rotation of crop about 3000; but it is not eaſy to ſay how much more may be arable, as conſiderable tracks of what can at preſent only be called paſture grounds, are breaking up

up every year. About 1200 acres are yearly in crop, which conſiſts moſtly of oats, barley, and potatoes; wheat, peaſe, and turnips, though there are a ſhare of them alſo, not being general crops. It is probable, however, from ſome experiments lately made, that wheat will often be adopted in place of barley, eſpecially where the ſoil is ſtrong and heavy. A conſiderable quantity of ſhell marl has been found in the pariſh, but is moſtly exhauſted. The center of the pariſh being only five miles from a convenient ſea-port, lime may be had from England at a reaſonable rate. The tenants have not hitherto been much in uſe of ſowing graſs-ſeeds, but are now coming faſt into practice. More clover has been ſown in the pariſh this laſt year than for many former years all put together.

Cattle and Sheep.—There are about 200 horſes in the pariſh, young ones not fit for ſervice being included. There are about 2000 black cattle, and upwards of 2000 ſheep, of the black faced Scots breed, which are kept upon the hills, and whoſe fleeces, at an average, do not weigh more than three pounds Engliſh. A few ſheep of the Yorkſhire and Northumberland breed, kept on the low lands, produce fleeces which weigh from ſix to ten pounds Engliſh each, of excellent wool. Some ſingular ſheep produce a great deal more. Theſe ſheep do not thrive upon the hills; nor are the hill-ſheep any thing improven by being croſſed with the Engliſh rams. The late John Dalziel of Barncroſh, a gentleman who beſtowed great pains in improving the breed of black cattle and ſheep in this country, tried the experiment in a farm he poſſeſſed in this pariſh; but it had a very different effect from what he expected. The wool of the brood of theſe Engliſh rams was coarſe and ſhaggy, and the ſheep themſelves ill-ſhaped and unhardy.

Rent

Rent and Productions.—The whole rent of the parish does not yet amount to 2000 l. Sterling; but any farms that have been lately out of lease, have been raised one third. The number of farms are about 50. None are under 5 l. or more than 100 l. of yearly rent. The average rent of the arable or pasture ground cannot be easily ascertained. As some of the best grounds are either in the possession of the proprietors, or are set by the lump; but according to the rate of the country, the arable might set from more than 1 l. to less than 5 s.; the pasture from 5 s. to 1 s.; the meadows, of which there are a considerable proportion, are mostly valued at 1 l. *per* acre. The staple commodities of the parish are black cattle and oat meal, the former bought up for the English markets, the latter for the manufacturing towns in the west of Scotland. Liverpool and Whitehaven afford a ready market for barley, and whatever other articles the parish produces, such as mutton, wool, pork, butter, cheese, poultry, &c. are generally sold at Dumfries, which is 9 miles distant. The principal feuel is peats, of which there are abundance. English coal may be had at much the same price as in Dumfries.

Roads.—The principal road, which divides the parish in almost equal parts, was made by the commutation money, and is in good repair; as also two bridges upon it, that were built at the expence of the county. The more private roads are improving yearly. The statute labour, while it continued, was of little effect. There has lately been some propofals of bringing the great road from London to Portpatrick through this parish; should this ever take place, it would prevent many disagreeable pulls, that cannot otherwise be avoided; but in this case there would be 7 or 8 miles of entire

tire new road to make, and a new bridge to be built over the Urr, which might coſt 500 l. or 600 l.

Population.—The number of ſouls in this pariſh was, in 1755, 489; at preſent the number is 520; the number of inhabited houſes is 103; there are 7 more males than females. There are two men of 90 years old, and ſeveral of 80 and upwards. The average of births, for the laſt 5 years, has been 18; of marriages, 3; of deaths, 10.

Diſeaſes.—Of diſeaſes, ſlow rheumatic fevers are the moſt prevalent, but very few die of them. The ſmall-pox, when they attack in the natural way, are the moſt deſtructive; were inoculation more generally in practice, many lives might, in all probability, be ſaved. Beſides thoſe that were inoculated in this pariſh by medical gentlemen in the year 1788, the miniſter inoculated about 50 of the children of his pariſhioners, all of whom did well and recovered, without ever having the leaſt appearance of danger; beſides 40 more laſt winter, with equal ſucceſs.

Church and School.—The patronage of the pariſh belongs to the family of Nithſdale; but that family being of the Romiſh perſuaſion, John Maxwell of Terraughty, who is Proteſtant, and male repreſentative of the family, is by them veſted with the right of preſentation. The ſtipend is 70 l. in money. The glebe contains near 11 acres of very good land, lately incloſed and ſubdivided. The manſe was built about 40 years ago, is in decent repair, and pleaſantly ſituated in a ſmall valley, which is interſected by a fine trouting river. The offices have been built about 5 years, and are very complete. The church, which has originally been a Romiſh chapel, is almoſt in a ſtate of ruin; but is propoſed

ſhortly

ſhortly to be rebuilt. The roof, which is of a peculiar conſtruction, is ſaid to have been formed at Holmcultern in Cumberland, and brought hither when the pariſh of Kirkgunzeon belonged to the Abbecy. There is, properly ſpeaking, but one ſchool in the pariſh. The ſchool and ſchoolmaſter's houſe were built at the expence of the heritors. The ſalary is 11 l. Sterling.

Ancient Buildings.—There are three ancient buildings in the pariſh, Barcloſh, Corrah, and Drumcultran. Barcloſh is ſaid to have been one of the ſeats of the family of Herriſes, but there are no records when it was built; it ſeems to have been a place of refuge, defended more by nature than by art, being remote and inacceſſible. The Corrah, which has been both a large building and a place of conſiderable ſtrength, was built by Sir John Maxwell, brother to the Earl of Nithſdale, who married Agnes, eldeſt daughter of William Lord Herries, and by her got the eſtate and titles of Terregles. This was the Lord Herries who was ſo eminent in the reign of Queen Mary, and who, though he was a loyal ſubject to her Majeſty, was yet a reformer, and cauſed unroof both the abbecies of Sweetheart and Dundrennan. Beſides the Corrah, he alſo built Moſcrops Tower at Terregles, which has lately been taken down, and a princely manſion erected in its room. Lord Herries was ſucceeded, in his eſtate and titles, by his ſon William, who, it is probable, had reſided ſome time at the Corrah, as a pigeon-cote, built in the year 1583, was inſcribed with his name, and the name of his lady Katharine Kerr. The Corrah was afterwards inhabited by Mr Maxwell of Breconſide, a connection of the family, who was one of 29 children by the ſame mother, who was firſt married to Gordon of Lochenvar, whoſe two eldeſt ſons

were

were the firſt Lords of Kenmure, and who, alongſt with Mr Maxwell of Breconſide, juſt now mentioned, were ſuppoſed to be the handſomeſt and ſtrongeſt men in the county. A part of the Corrah is now poſſeſſed as a farm houſe; the greateſt part has been taken down, and houſes built with the materials. In one of the apartments which remain, there is an old oaken bed, ſaid to be the nurſery bed of the family, which is yet almoſt entire, curiouſly carved and figured, and is a piece of great antiquity. The Tower of Drumcultran is not ſo very ancient as to deſerve any particular deſcription; nor are there any remarkable antiquities, unleſs the veſtiges of three Roman camps, and a Druidical temple, ſhould be mentioned. Theſe things are very common in this part of the country, and do not ſeem to claim any farther attention.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF NIGG.

(County of Kincardine.—Preſbytery and Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr DAVID CRUDEN.

Situation, Form, &c.

THAT chain of mountains, which nearly divides Scotland, called the Grampians, may be conſidered as terminating at the German Ocean, in this pariſh. It forms alſo the north-eaſt point of the county of Kincardine. It is attached to the commiſſariot of St. Andrew's, but belongs to the preſbytery and ſynod of Aberdeen. In ſhape it is a peninſula. The word Nigg is ſaid to mean, in Celtic, a peninſula. A pariſh in Roſsſhire, which is alſo named Nigg, is of the ſame form with this. On the north-eaſt, the land turning into a neſs or head-land, runs out into the ſea called the Girdleneſs, round to the Bay of Aberdeen; on the north-weſt, it is waſhed by the tide in Aberdeen harbour and the river Dee; and on the ſouth-weſt, bounded by the pariſh of Banchory Devenick. It preſents to the ſea a bold face of rock, from 60 to 80 feet high, covered with green; then a riſing bank, arable from the top of the rock to ſome diſtance, increaſing towards the ſouthern extremity; and above, an aſcending heathy ridge of hill, about 200 feet above the ſea, going through the whole length of the pariſh, and crowned with

with two cairns, which are ſeen ſeveral leagues off, and direct thoſe who ſail near the coaſt. The north ſide of the pariſh conſiſts of two haughs, on the river and the ſide of a hill, ending in the Girdleneſs, and of a valley and hill beneath the heathy ridge. Though a part of the ſoil be clayiſh, the far greater part is loamy, of various depth, and on different bottoms, in ſome places incumbered with ſtones. The haughs, the valley, and ſides of the two hills, to the north, are arable. The bank to the ſouth is in good part ploughed. A broad belt, of above a mile, more and leſs, throughout the middle, and the whole length of the pariſh, with the exception of ſome acres lately cultivated, is unarable and uninhabited, conſiſting of moſs and of heath, ſtrewed with many ſtones. The meaſures of the different kinds of ground *, are, infield, 526 acres 2 roods 7 falls; outfield, 577 acres 2 roods 26 falls; paſture, 584 acres 5 falls; moor, 1483 acres 2 roods 1 fall; moſs, 203 acres 3 roods 35 falls; total, 3375 acres 2 roods 34 falls. The infield, or croft, is ground continually in tillage, and regularly manured.—The outfield is ground which is never manured, but ploughed occaſionally from paſture graſs.

Coaſt.—A mile from the ſouth-weſt boundary. There is a natural harbour, with very little artificial help, the cove, fit for boats, which accommodates the fiſhermen of a village lying above it, and ſometimes affords refuge to others: For northward of the port of Aberdeen, for ſeveral leagues, is a ſand beach, and that port being formed by a river, has often a ſurge riſing quickly at its mouth, by the wind blowing in ſhore, dangerous to boats; here, therefore, they have often found

* A map of Kincardineſhire was publiſhed by Mr William Gerdon, 1774. A ſurvey of the pariſh of Nigg was made by Mr George Brown, 1777.

found safety. From this place, though there be several indented hollows along the coast, and though an attempt was lately made, by a small pier, to fit one of them to receive boats, there is no harbour for them 4 miles round, till they come to Aberdeen.

The latitude is 57 deg. 9 min. north; the longitude is 2 deg. 9 min. west. In time of war a flag is hoisted on a staff half a mile from the point, on the most raised eminence, as a signal, when an enemy's ship is in the offing. There is free open sea along this coast. The water rises, at spring tides, 13 feet; and the height of the stream is at 45 minutes past noon, at full and change. The tide of flood runs south-west and by south; that of ebb, north-east half north, and at the rate of 3 and 4 knots in the hour. The variation of the compass is 25 degrees west, and has increased a degree within these 7 years. From 6 and 8 fathoms at the rock foot, the bottom deepens, shelving off shore, with sandy, rocky, and various ground, and sometimes rising, till it sinks to 90 fathoms, at the distance of 10 or 11 leagues from land; then it ascends on the fishing bank, the Long Forties, to 33, 34, or 35 fathoms, a few leagues over, until it falls into the depth of the north sea.

Rivers, Lakes, &c.—The Dee, which forms the harbour of Aberdeen, after a course pretty much north-east, of 80 miles, falls here into the sea. On this side of the harbour is Torry Pier, where vessels come to unload lime, and take in cargoes of stones; above which lie the boats of the fishermen, serving also as pilots, who inhabit the village of Torry. The tide flows more than two miles farther up the river, to a bridge over it, and even to the boundary of the parish; but there is no navigation up the stream, except for boats and lighters about a mile, on account of the shallows in it. The

Dee

Dee is a clear rapid river, flowing moſtly through gravelly ſoil, favourable to natural wood, and ſometimes riſes to overflow the haughs, carry off part of the mould, and ſweep away corns. The upper haugh in this pariſh is a little expoſed, and in autumn 1768 ſuffered. One lake, the Loch of Lorſtown, is on the ſouth-weſt boundary, oblong in form, covering 27 acres, and ſupplying water to the only mill here. There is alſo one chalybeat ſpring, though not frequented for any diſeaſes; but ſprings of fine water abound.

Face of the Country, &c.—Being deſtitute of wood, the face of the country is naked. In the laſt age, a grove ſeems to have been by the harbour mouth to the edge of the water. And beſides many remains of oak dug out of the moſs, ſtumps of trees, which muſt have been one and a half, and two feet diameter, ſtill ſtand on the eaſt ſide of it, above ground. Fine graſs, mingled with many herbs, grows early on the ſea banks, and rock top, almoſt ever-green from the ſpray and dews. Through the large uncultivated, and, for the moſt part, uncultivable ſpace of this pariſh, a low heath is ſpread. The ſea-ſide and hill paſture is reckoned good and wholeſome for ſheep, and almoſt never is covered to any depth with ſnow. The corn fields are liable to the common weeds, eſpecially to ſkelloch, (moſtly wild muſtard), for which, to ſow late after ploughing, when the plant is riſen up, and may be deſtroyed by harrowing, has been tried with ſucceſs.

Many ſtones of the granite kind lie on the ſurface, which, with thoſe taken from the rock by the ſea, and under ground, are ſome of a beautiful bluiſh, and others of a purple and various hew. They ſupply abundant materials for building and incloſing. Several ſpecies here, from the attraction of the magnet, ſeem to be volcanic; ſo are others in the hills far

up

up the Dee. If this experiment is a certain indication, in what condition muſt this country have once been?

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The air is healthy: Along the coaſt it is freſh, and, from the influence of the ſea, to the ſenſe colder; yet the froſt is leſs intenſe, ſnow continues ſhorter time, and the crop ripens ſooner than in places a little inland. The eaſt wind brings a moiſture, and ſometimes, particularly in the month of May, miſts come off the ſea; but the climate cannot be called damp; rather, from the moderate quantity of rain which falls upon this eaſt coaſt, perhaps about 27 inches annually, from the light, loamy, ſandy ſoil, abſorbing it ſoon, and from the frequent breezes, it may be reckoned dry. This allows grain to be ſown pretty early; oats, from the middle of march, and bear, from the middle of April; potatoes are planted in April; turnip is ſown from the beginning of June. The crop ripens in general ſoon. In this ſea air, iron is ſoon corroded. It brings alſo on the ſurface of many bodies, eſpecially in a northern and eaſtern expoſure, a fog, or green ſpecies of moſs. To the growth of timber and fruit it ſeems unfavourable, at leaſt till ſhelter be acquired. No diſeaſes of an epidemic nature prevail here, except brought by contagion. Agues are unknown. The ſmall-pox, for which inoculation is not uſed, once in a few years ſpreads, eſpecially among the fiſher families, whoſe communication with one another is open, and carries off ſometimes many children. From the more ſedentary life of women now, at knitting ſtockings, hyſteric complaints are thought frequent. The inhabitants live to a moderate age. The fiſhermen are very little ſubject to diſeaſes through mid-life; but expoſed, from their occupation, to diſaſters. Of 30 men in boats at the Cove, within 3 years 9 have periſhed.

Ancient Population, and State.—From the end of the laſt century to the middle of the preſent, the population of this pariſh was about one fourth greater than now. The country was alſo filled with the cattle of 17 ploughs, 10 and 12 to the plough, and covered with above 2000 ſheep. From about the war 1740, the population has declined to the year 1786. The cattle were reduced, rapidly near the laſt period, to ſcarce one plough; and there remained not one ſheep. The cauſes of this depopulation ſeem to have been theſe: The drain of men, principally to the fleet, in the different wars; an increaſing turn to the ſea-faring life, to handicrafts, and manufactures; from a prohibition, and the moſſes being nigh exhauſted, the occupation of preparing and carrying fuel to Aberdeen ſtopped. The new mode of agriculture contributed here to the ſame general effect. The tenants found, with the ideas of incloſing and green crops, their ſheep diſturbed; and they put flocks of them away. The proſpect of a diviſion of the pariſh, which almoſt wholly lay in run ridge, and the ſhort, uncertain leaſes in view to it, led them to put away the remainder, to give up their oxen, and to plough on their fields with horſes, deprived of the dung of cattle and ſheep, the wet grounds being turned low, or neglected.

Diviſion of the Pariſh, and Improvements.—From the abbacy of Arbroath, to which this pariſh belonged, one half of it, alternate ridge, came to a predeceſſor of Mr John Menzies of Pitfoddels, who now poſſeſſes it. The town of Aberdeen holds the other half, purchaſed with monies mortified principally for promoting education and religious inſtruction. That community has alſo ſome property, which had remained ſeparate. By the arbitration of two gentlemen, the pariſh was divided in 1786, the town of Aberdeen obtaining the

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ſide along the lower part of the harbour, and round the coaſt, and Mr Menzies that up the river, and inland. He has now let his grounds in the following manner: Divided into ſmall lots, from 10 l. to 30 l. ſome of which are taken in leaſe together, and ſome even ſubdivided. The tenants are obliged to do ſomething in incloſing them, and to keep part in graſs and green crop. As an incitement to meliorate the land, the rent riſes a little at the end of 9, and again at the end of 19 years; while the temptation to exhauſt it is removed by the uncertain term of a lifetime to which the leaſe extends beyond the laſt period. The town-council of Aberdeen have feued out their ſhare in nine moderate lots, from about 30 l. to 90 l. each. By becoming private property, a new ſpur is given to render it more valuable. Accordingly, every feuer has made ſome progreſs in improving his ground; and ſome of them, by building ſtone-fences, draining and dreſſing the ſurface, as well as by laying on lime, and erecting farm-houſes and ſteddings, have done much to change the face of their property. Indeed, a ſpirit of induſtry and improvement has gone out, and reached the loweſt cottager. Multures and embarraſſing ſervices are aboliſhed. Part of the formerly plowed land is regaining. Oxen are brought in, and reared of a larger ſize. Cows are kept to a greater number than ever; and ſome ſheep are introduced. The population has increaſed from new families coming in, and from the ſettlement which has taken place. The people who, in 1787, were 1024, are now 1090. They are alſo becoming better accommodated. Within the ſpace of a few years, 70 houſes have been built in a ſubſtantial manner, and ſuitable for the different poſſeſſors, at the expence of above 1200 l.

Cultivation.—Carts, introduced here about 30 years ſince, are

are univerſally uſed; and, in theſe riſing grounds, drawn by two horſes. The beſt form of other implements of huſbandry, and beſt modes of agriculture, and rotation of crops, are only beginning to be underſtood and tried.

Manures.—To animal dung and aſhes, that manure produced in the fiſhing villages, from the mixture of all oily and fiſhy ſubſtances, is uſed. It favours bear and green crops; but, when uſed much, renders the ſoil unfit for producing oats. Hence that ſoil is called *poiſoned land.* Another manure is ware and ſea-weed. It is brought to land in the Bay of Nigg, and at the mouth of the harbour principally, after an agitation of the ſea, when the wind blows in points from the north, round by the weſt, to the ſouth; that is, blows from the land; ſo that the breeze which would carry a body out to ſea on its ſurface, brings this ſubſtance, at the bottom, or ſwimming in it, in a contrary direction, on ſhore; an object ſuggeſting the manner of the internal motion of water agitated by wind *. This ware is of three kinds, obtained at different ſeaſons. The firſt is the green ſlake, which grows in the river, is waſhed down by the ſummer floods, and is brought aſhore at the harbour-mouth. The ſecond kind is compoſed of various marine plants torn from the rocks by the ſtorms, and driven to land, from the end of harveſt throughout winter. The laſt is the top of the carn tangle, (*fucus digitatus* ſuppoſed), which that plant throws, commonly in the end of May, or ſometimes later, eſpecially with rains or motion of the ſea, and is carried to ſhore. The ſea-weed produces a crop of bear, a little inferior in

* In the ſame manner, the wind in the points from the eaſt draws into the ſea the ſand, covering ſtones on a ſhelving bank when it blows an eaſterly ſtorm, while it brings wreck wood, on the ſurface, aſhore.

quality. It favours the growth and taste of esculent herbs. Lime is purchased about 2s. the boll, Scotch, and 2s. 7d. English, unslaked, nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet measure; yielding, the first, 2 bolls fully, the other near three bolls slaked lime, and is used in different quantities with success.

Crop 1790.—The proportions of the different kinds of grain sown, and roots and grass, with their probable produce, and the manner in which they are disposed, are these:

362 Acres in oats, may be computed to have produced 5 bolls the acre, the produce, or an equivalent, and much more being consumed by the people.

169 Acres in bear, may have produced 7 bolls the acre, of which a part is made into meal for use, and one half may be sold to the breweries and distilleries.

18 Acres in pease, may have produced 4 bolls the acre, partly consumed, and partly sold.

54 Acres in potatoes, yielded about 30 bolls the acre, 512 pounds Amsterdam in the boll, a large share of which is consumed within the parish, and 600 or 700 bolls are carried to Aberdeen market, or exported.

70 Acres in turnip and in rye grass, and red and white clover.

114 Acres, part of which is cut for hay, produced food, with the pasture, and various fodder, for 46 working oxen, 230 cows, and the young cattle; the milk of the cows being used in families, employed for rearing calves for breed or sale, and sold in the fishing villages, or without the parish. Few cattle are fed for market. The hill-pasture, along with the cattle, had only 209 sheep, and 12 goats. From the crop also was the support of 87 horses, almost all for the draught. The ploughs wrought by them and cattle are 33, the wains 5, and carts and carriages for stones 69.

Causeway

Cauſeway Stones.—Oblong roundiſh pebbles, from 6 to 12 inches in length, are brought by ſea and land carriage from the ſea-ſhore, and are exported to different places in England for ordinary cauſeways. The collecting and carriage of a ton may be 1 s. 8 d.; and the quantity exported annually 400 tons.

In 1766, the granite quarries by the ſea and in the hills were opened for making cauſeway ſtones to pave ſome ſtreets in London. This granite is of a remarkably cloſe texture, and of great hardneſs. To this new work 600 men were collected from different places. It led many families to ſettle for a time in the pariſh, and employed ſome horſes in drawing the ſtones, where water conveyance could not be obtained. Decreaſing rapidly from 1772, it now engages only 17 inhabitants, with a few ſtrangers. The ſhape of the formed ſtone is ſomething wedge-like, 12 inches long in the head, 6 broad, and 9 deep, being 2 inches leſſened in length and in breadth on the baſe: The ſmaller in ſimilar proportions. The ton may be made by a man in two days, coſts 2 s. 6 d. beſides the expence of powder and tools; and will pave, according to the ſize of the ſtones, from $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 ſquare yards. 3000 Tons are now annually exported to London, Maidſtone, Ramſgate, and other places. The cubic foot weighs 151 pounds. This new and heavy employment required and introduced a better breed of horſes. The wages were at firſt too high; ſo that a man gained 18 s. and 20 s. in a week, which did him no good. Except by a few individuals, all was ſpent.

Fiſheries and Salmon Fiſhers.—The ſalmon fiſhers, 23 in number, almoſt all of whom have pieces of ground, are engaged in fiſhing the river and the ſea adjacent, and are employed at vacant hours diligently in cultivating the land.

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The manner of their general payment is favourable to oeconomy and exertion. A man has commonly ſo many bolls of meal, money to purchaſe boots, a fee, and a premium on the quantity of fiſh caught. According to the length of time he is engaged, and the ſucceſs of the fiſhing, he may gain from 5 l. to 15 l. in the ſeaſon.

White Fiſhers.—A greater number is employed in the white fiſhing, or that for different kinds of fiſh in the ſea. In the villages of Cove, 24 men in 4 boats, beſides 14 young and aged in yauls, are occupied in this manner. In the only other village, of Torry, 36 men are in 6 boats, fiſhers, and acting as pilots; and 9 in youth or age, go to ſea occaſionally in yauls; in whole 83. The ordinary fare of pilotage is 6 s. The round of fiſhing through the year, and different manner of it, ſome particulars of which are applicable to the eaſt coaſt of Scotland, are theſe:

In January the haddock has roe, is in good condition, and ordinarily comes on the coaſt in ſqualls. Towards March, the ſmall flat fiſh, ſalt fluke, and plaiſe, are in their prime on the ſand bottom. After May, the haddock recruited, and the whiting good, are taken in moderate quantities, and a few turbot. From November, the cod, in beſt ſtate, is catched on the rocky ground. This is the fiſhing with the *ſmall line*, and takes place at different diſtances, but commonly not far from land. The quantity of line found ſufficient for a man to manage at ſea and ſhore, contains 36 ſcores, 720 hooks, (in ſummer a few more), one yard diſtant from each other other, on ſnoods of horſe hair, value 15 s.—The next fiſhing is with the *dog line*. In Auguſt frequently the ſea-dog, that voracious fiſh, conſuming all before it, comes to 4 and 3 leagues from ſhore, ſometimes nearer, and is taken in conſiderable quantities; 20 yielding, when good, one Scotch

pint

pint of oil (10 d. or 1 s.) from the liver; and the fiſh being ſold to country people, or dried for uſe. A ſtronger line, with larger hooks, for this fiſhing, contains 24 ſcores, 480¼ yard diſtant, and coſts 10 s.—The laſt fiſhing is with the *great line*. From March or April, as the weather permits, it commences. After catching ſmall fiſh for bait, the fiſhermen go off farther into the ſea, to two and ſeveral more leagues from ſhore, to find the larger ſpecies. The ling is firſt in good ſtate, then the hollobut, (here called turbot), and afterwards the ſkate in May and June. Large cod, called keilling, are alſo got in ſpring and ſummer. The line for all theſe is of conſiderable ſtrength, and contains, at 4½ fathoms diſtance from each other, on ſnoods of one fathom, 3 ſcores, 60 large hooks, in value 25 s.—For the ſmall fiſh they uſe a yaul 17 feet long, 7 l. value, dividing ſometimes for deſpatch into two parties, and taking in a young or old man when they go ſhort way from ſhore. But to the dog-fiſhing they uſe a boat 23 feet long, by 9 fully wide, with 2 ſmall maſts and ſails, 15 l. in value, and have 6 men. In this ſlender veſſel, in which they ſeek the larger fiſh towards ſummer, they venture off, with compaſs, to the bank, 14 or 15 leagues from land, and draw their lines twice or thrice before they return.

From the ſtatement it appears, a fiſherman needs only 2 l. 10 s. for lines; and this ſmall outſet, ſometimes leſs, enables him, at the age of 19 or 20, to gain bread as well as his father, and therefore to marry and raiſe a family, which ſoon he generally does.

The bait for the ſmall fiſh is the limpet, gathered uſually by the children from the rocks; the ſand eel, dug out of the ſand, or caught behind the meſhes of a net by baſkets; a worm got in the ſand, *lug*; ſome offals from the butcher-market ſalted, and the muſcle. They go to Montroſe, ſome

of

of them twice or thrice in the ſummer, and bring a loading of the boat, at the expence of above 2 l. to each crew, at every time. The muſcles, caſt upon the rock where the tide overflows, hold if the weather be ſettled, and remain till uſed. If a ſtorm prevents them catching hold, and after they are expended, it coſts a fiſherman from 3 d. to 8 d. for others each time he goes to ſea; and this often in the winter, when the fiſhing of January failing, as it has done theſe ſeveral years, he will not gain more than their value. The diviſion of the catch is one equal ſhare to a man, after a ſeventh for the boat. The fiſh are carried to Aberdeen market, where they bring a price double what it was 30 years ſince, but variable with the quality, the rareneſs, and quantity.

Shell Fiſh.—About four years ago, a new method was brought in at the Cove for catching the lobſter, which is good in ſpring, and the crab, which becomes ſo in ſummer. A baſket, 5 feet long, 2 feet wide, nearly a cylinder, cutting a good ſection off for a baſe, is formed of plain wood, in ſlits, for the bottom, and of hoops for the curve, netted over. From the ends the net-work is wrought inward into a narrow entrance for the fiſh, bait being hung within to entice it. It is ſunk with a weight, having a rope and buoy. The crab enters, falls down, and cannot get out. To the effect of this ſimple machine, which coſts 10 s. 6 d. they attribute the cloathing of their families after the hardſhips of 1783, and ſome following years. That for lobſters is of leſs ſize, and ſunk near the rock foot. From 12 at night, in ſummer, to ſeveral hours into morning, the fiſherman goes out to ſea, lays his line at dawn, which is the beſt time for the fiſhing, at ſlack of ebb or flow, when the current of tide does not impede, and returns with his catch. Then he draws his *creels* for ſhell-fiſh. The woman, who has been from 3 or 4 o'clock

o'clock carrying home fuel, or engaged at the rocks, bears the fiſh to market, 5 miles diſtance to ſome, and comes back to houſehold affairs. A boy or girl, from 10, 12, to 14 years of age, has been employed in gathering bait. After the neceſſary expences of bait and lines, a man in this hazardous manner of life, with his wife and child, has gained in theſe ſeven paſt unfavourable years, ſcarce 10 l. annually. During ſome later months of winter, the ſubſiſtence of the family has depended much on the work of the females. Since the commencement of the American and French war 1778, 24 men have been impreſſed or entered to ſerve their country in the fleet from the fiſher families. In theſe late armaments, their fiſhing has been interrupted from fear of their young men being ſeized; and to procure 10 men, inſtead of one from each boat, who have been demanded from them, the crews have paid 106 l. 14 s. which exhauſted the ſubſtance of ſome families, and hung long a debt on others.

Marine Plants.—To help their maintenance, the fiſher-women at times, and alſo ſome women of the country, from the beginning of ſummer, go to the rocks at low tide, and gather the *fucus palmatus*, dulſe; *fucus eſculentus*, badderlock; and *fucus pinnatifidus*, pepper dulſe, which are reliſhed in this part of the country, and ſell them.

Kelp.—The ſea-ware, or bladder-fucus, grows up in three years on the rocks round the Neſs and Bay chiefly, to a condition for being cut, dried, and burned into kelp. In 1791, 11 tons, of a fine quality, were made by 33 women, moſtly young women, at 8 d. *per* day, with the direction of an overſeer.

Manufacture.—The whole female part of the pariſh, when not

not occupied by theſe engagements, or harveſt, the moſs, and domeſtic affairs, work at knitting woollen ſtockings, the materials of which they generally receive from manufacturers in Aberdeen. The work of the few tradeſmen and others, is chiefly for the accommodation of the people.

The male children of the land people, from 9 and 10 years old, often herd cattle in ſummer, and thoſe of all attend ſchool in winter. The female children learn ſtill earlier to knit and to read.

Population.—Births, at an average, for 17 years, from 1675 to 1691, - - - - - $44\frac{1}{7}$

——— for 9 years, from 1748 to 1756, - $39\frac{5}{9}$

——— for 9 years, from 1783 to 1791, - $30\frac{1}{9}$

In the laſt period, proportion of males to females, 15 to $15\frac{1}{37}$. Average of marriages for 8 years of laſt period *, 10. By Dr Webſter's liſt, in 1755, the numbers were rated at 1289 ſouls. In 1791, ſouls 1090.

Number and proportion of males to females, at different periods of life.

	Male.	*Fem.*	*Exceſs.*	*Tot.*
In 2 villages, to 10 years of age,	62	50	12 males	112
——— to 20 ———	55	58	3 fem.	113
——— to 50 ———	73	101	28 fem.	174
——— to 70 ———	30	37	7 fem.	67
——— Above,	14	20	6 fem.	34
Carried over, Total,	234	266		500

* Marriages being regiſtered frequently in the pariſh where the woman reſides, renders the view of them fallacious, except a diſtrict, wherein they all may have been, is taken in.

	Male.	*Fem.*	*Exceſs.*	*Tot.*
Brought over,	234	266		500
In the country, to 10 years of age,	59	71	12 fem.	130
—— to 20 ——	56	74	18 fem.	130
—— to 50 ——	89	130	41 fem.	219
—— to 70 ——	39	39	—	78
—— Above,	20	13	7 males	33
In whole,	497	593	96 fem.	1090

The families, who may be looked upon as having completed their number, have had children by preſent or former marriages:

57 land families, 405 children, nearly $7\frac{1}{9}$ each.

42 fiſher families, 314 children, nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$ each.

Land families, or pairs of country people married who have had no children, 7; fiſher families, who have had no children, 0. Males married, 203; unmarried, from 20 years of age, 51; widowers, 9; widows, of whom 8 had their huſbands drowned, 52; 1090 perſons are in 265 houſes, nearly $4\frac{1}{9}$ to each houſe. In 3375 acres, the population is $162\frac{2}{3}$ fully in the ſquare mile.

Diviſion.—Two heritors not reſident. Several feuers of houſes in Torry and ſmall pieces of ground, ſome reſident, others not; 5 feuers of conſiderable lots of ground, 2 reſident, 2 partly, 1 not.

Perſons farming land, from 30 l. to 40 l. rent, - 8

—— ditto not reſident, - - 2

—— ditto from 8 l. to 20 l. rent, 18

Cottagers, 12; overſeers and cottar ſervants, 9; male ſervants, 51; female ſervants, 51; ſalmon fiſhers, 23; ſea fiſhers, old and young, 83; labourers, 47; quarriers, 17; maſons, 2; dykers, 3; butchers partly, 3; ſhopkeepers, 2

or 3; taylors, 3; blackſmiths, 4; ſhoe and harneſs-makers, 2; carpenters, 3; ſeamen, 4; ferrymen, 2; cuſtom-houſe officers, 2; cartwright, 1; houſe-carpenter, 1; miller, 1. One miniſter, 2 ſchoolmaſters, one a ſtudent of divinity. Seceders, above 18 years of age, 13; Epiſcopalians, 13; Roman Catholics, 8; and ſome who go ſeldom to any place of worſhip.

Among the land people, there has been a great migration, moſtly down the country towards the coaſts; very little among the fiſhers. No land man becomes a fiſher. From this place, ſome go to learn handicrafts, to manufactures, and abroad. Since 1778, 70 have been, for a longer or ſhorter time, ſailors; 44 have ſerved in the fleet. Several natives have applied to ſhip-building and commerce, with ſpirit and ſucceſs. None attach themſelves to ſtudious engagements.

Rent.—The valued rent is 1562 l. 6 s. Scots; the real rent, about 900 l. Sterling. Rent of houſes, and fued land in Torry, is about 90 l. Land, on the ſide near Aberdeen, is let from 2 l. 12 s. 6 d. *per* acre downward; for potatoes, ploughed, with a little aſſiſtance of carriage, for a crop at 6 l. at a medium through the pariſh, at 20 s.; poor ground lower.

Roads.—Since the diviſion of the pariſh, many lines of road have been formed, at the expence of the feuers, and with the ſtatute labour; but none ſubſtantially completed.

Fuel.—By peat from ſome remainder of moſs, and from moſſes in the pariſh of Banchory Devenick, with ſome turf, and a few coals, the people are expenſively ſerved.

Alehouſes.—There are 8 or 9 alehouſes; too many:—but the paſſages over the river at the ferry and bridge occaſion

ſome;

ſome; and that ale conſtitutes a part of the diet of a fiſherman, requires others.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The crown is patron. The church, anciently called St. Fiacer Church, and the north-eaſtmoſt houſe of the pariſh, was built before this century, and is decent. The manſe was built 1759. The ſtipend, conſiſting of 52 bolls bear and meal, together with the money and allowance for communion elements, may be reckoned 80 l. The glebe of 10 acres incloſed, 18 l. The ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. as ſeſſion clerk and precentor, 2 l.; and with perquiſites and dues of teaching, 1 s. 6 d. for Engliſh, and 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, may complete 20 l. He is accommodated with a ſchool-houſe and garden. A ſchoolmaſter at the Cove, 3 miles diſtant from the parochial ſchool, has the ſame accommodation, with a ſmall gratuity. Above 70 are taught, beſides ſome by women.

Poor.—The number of thoſe requiring ſtated help, or occaſional ſupply, is 25, none of whom beg, except one who is above 80, goes a little about, from habit. The funds for their ſupply are, intereſt of 50 l. of which 27 l. 15 s. 6 d. was left to the poor by the Rev. Mr Richard Maitland, who, after being 40 years Epiſcopal miniſter here, was ejected, 1716,

	L.		
	2	10	0
Weekly collections, above 5 s. each week, -	12	7	0
Collections at the communion, - -	5	4	5
Seat rents of a gallery built with the poor's money,	4	12	7
For the uſe of the mort-cloth, and other ſources of charity, - - - -	6	18	0
L	31	12	0

After payment of the ſeſſion-clerk, officer, and ſome other ſmall

ſmall burdens, this ſum is diſtributed among the poor, who are ſatisfied. They underſtand their effects, at death, to belong to the funds; but this is rather a preventive of improper application, than any ſource of emolument, there being ſeldom occaſion to demand hoarded ſubſtance from relations. In 1783, by the exertions of charity within the pariſh, with a ſmall allowance of meal from government, the poor were ſupplied, and ſome families extraordinarily helped, without encroachment on the funds. That ſeaſon increaſed the ſpirit of induſtry, repreſſed intemperance, and introduced, by importation, ſome new and earlier kinds of oats into this country.—In 1787, three fiſhermen, loſt off the Cove, left widows, children, and depending relatives, for whom, beſides the collections in this and the neighbouring pariſh, a ſubſcription was opened in Aberdeen, and, from the generous humanity of perſons there, and ſome others, near 60 l. were contributed. In 1790, 6 men periſhed, leaving 5 widows and 25 children, one half helpleſs, for whom, by the heritors, by collections in the neareſt pariſhes, and principally in Aberdeen, above 131 l. were contributed. Both theſe ſums, under the management of ſome gentlemen, do afford an aid half yearly to the poor families; and the children are taught and inured to induſtry, promiſing to fill the place of their fathers in an uſeful, and not eaſily ſupplied employment. In view to the helpleſs condition of a fiſherman in old age, any ſavings through life being almoſt unknown to him, in 1772 a plan was propoſed to the fiſhers in Torry, to give in 2 s. 6 d. each, and 1 s. annually; ſome captains of ſhips, and others, adding a little gratuitouſly. There was an odd 2 d. in the diviſion of their pilotage fare, which they added. By the attention of ſome gentlemen, natives of this place, the money, allowed to accumulate on intereſt, without diſtribution, for 10 years, has riſen to 170 l. and 11 l. are annually divided;

ed; 10 s. to each old man, and 7 s. 1 d. to each widow, every half year. The odd 2 d. formerly kept for a drink to the crew, has been the principal ſource of increaſe; the means of a little enjoyment, perhaps of intemperance, becoming the ſupply of indigence. A ſimilar inſtitution has been commenced lately at the Cove.

Cuſtoms.—In the month of May, many of the lower ranks from around the adjacent city, come to drink of a well in the Bay of Nigg, called Downy-well; and proceeding a little farther, go over a narrow paſs, *The Brigg of ae Hair* *, to Downy-hill, a green iſland in the ſea, where young people cut their favourites names in the ſward. It ſeems to be the remains of ſome ſuperſtitious reſpect to the fountain, and retreat of a reputed ſaint, gone into an innocent amuſement. The Bay, from the corruption probably of his name, was formerly called San Fittick's Bay †. On the ſudden death of their relations, or fear of it, by the ſea turning dangerous, the fiſher people, eſpecially the females, expreſs their ſorrow by exclamation of voice, and geſture of body, like the eaſtern nations, and thoſe in early ſtate of civilization.

Antiquities.—Whatever purpoſe cairns may have ſerved, the two principal ones here could have anſwered well for watch towers, and kindling fires on them to advertiſe the country, on the approach of hoſtile ſhips.

A few years ago, in removing the green ſod of the eaſtmoſt of 4 ſmall conical hills, above the inner entrance of the harbour, there was found a broad covering ſtone, two ſide ſtones above two feet long, and two end ſtones ſhorter, without mark of inſtrument,

* Bridge of one hair.

† Sanctus Fitticus, or Monſutucus, perhaps.

inſtrument, and within them an urn 6 inches high, formed of dark baked earth, with a yellowiſh cruſt, figured ſimply. Lately the remaining ruins of an ediſice, belonging to the Abbey of Arbroath, were dug up, on the upper part of the harbour. A burial ground was nigh. Silver pieces, ſtruck on Queen Mary's marriage, 1559, and others, were found. It retains the name of Abbot's Walls.

Diſadvantages..—On the northern part of the bank, above the ſea, and facing it, in the beginning of harveſt, ſome years, the wind, in a ſouth-eaſt ſtorm, carries the ſea ſpray up gullies, and over the face of the rock, and ſome ſalt dew, a conſiderable way on the land, which hurts the crop of ripening oats. Timely rain may recover it; if not, it comes to no farther maturity, and the ſtraw is little fit for uſe, being too laxative. This harm is called blaſting. By the temporary and exceſſive gain in bringing to ſhore prohibited goods, to which the ſeafaring people here are little tempted now, no ſolid acquiſition was made; it commonly has been ſpent to their moral prejudice: And when one has been hurt in the employment, he has been left to languiſh neglected. The poor have ſuſtained, for many years paſt, the loſs of 5 *per cent.* on the weekly collections, by bad copper. Such coin being at laſt refuſed, by thoſe who, for juſt debt, have a right to good money, muſt, in the end, generally be thrown in to the poor; who, in this part of the country, with the ſupport of the ſick in the Infirmary of Aberdeen, in the collections made for it, have ſuffered much. To injuſtice in importing ſuch money, there is inhumanity.

When the fiſhing of January fails, the fiſhers are put to ſevere hardſhips in the laſt winter months; eſpecially the laying out as much, or more, for muſcle-bait, than they can gain, diſcourages them from going to ſea ſo frequently, or ſo well

well prepared as they might do. Indeed the condition of the fiſhers on this coaſt needs to be relieved. A hardy race of men, more prolific than any other, ſo cheaply out-fitted to gain bread and raiſe a family, employed in bringing in an additional quantity of food, affording ſuch a number to the fleet for our common defence, and giving ſuch a ſum for ſubſtitutes of one from each boat; they certainly deſerve of their country, and do eſſential ſervice. At the ſame time, their gain for a livelihood, were they ſenſible of it, is inferior now to that of many other ways of life; and by continuance, they may be tempted, as ſome of them elſewhere have been, to change it for the chance of another. In addition to ſuch generous and humane exertions for their families on diſaſter, as have already been made, ſome means promiſing benefit ſeem to be theſe: To preſerve the coaſt open to them for bait; to make the muſcle, for the purpoſe of bait, cheap; to order the number required from them for the fleet, ſo as to put them no more in fear of impreſſing, which interrupts their buſineſs; nor to ſuch expence for ſubſtitutes, which has oppreſſed their families; to render the wages of thoſe who have died on board his Majeſty's ſhips recoverable at a low expence, which, it is hoped, the bill introduced by Mr Dundas will do; and to make prize-money recoverable. An experiment might be made to improve the diſtant fiſhery. If a few decked veſſels, which could weather a little rough ſea, were employed on the bank, the boats could depoſit their cargoes with them, and could have recourſe to them in danger, while the crews might fiſh with the hand line. The fiſhers preſently ſee 2, 5, 7, and more Dutch ſhips at a time on this bank ſo engaged; and they obſerve them catching many more cod and ling than themſelves, which they attribute to the bait being hung at ſome diſtance from the bottom by the hand-line, where theſe fiſh ſwim;

ſwim; while their own ground lines are fitter for taking ſkate and hollobut, which keep by the bottom.

Melioration.—The city of Aberdeen is hemmed in by the ſea on the eaſt, by Old Aberdeen on the north, and by the river Dee on the ſouth: It is only open, for any extent, to the weſt. Hence the high rent of land around it, perhaps among the higheſt in the kingdom. It has been often mentioned, that eaſy acceſs to this pariſh, by a bridge over the Dee, at the neareſt proper ſituation, might enlarge the ſpace of gardening ground. It would certainly tend, in a high degree, to meliorate the northern ſide of this pariſh. Perhaps a road to the ſouth, leſs ſteep than the preſent one up Tollo-hill, might be the conſequence.

The quarries have hurt ſome parts of the hill, but there remains a conſiderable range of paſture for ſheep, and the introduction of as many as it will carry ſeems neceſſary for filling ſuch a waſte, and for the improvement of the country. Without a melioration of the roads, horſes will be able to do little on them in winter; even people can hardly come through the weſtern part of them to church; ſome do not.

Character.—The people, on the whole, are not defective in underſtanding, and are very induſtrious. They are decent, content with their lot, ſober, and charitable: It were to be wiſhed that their impreſſions of religion were deeper. No crime, of a heinous nature, has been committed in the memory of any living. Among the fiſhers, a ſtrife of words may be at a time, which is ſoon laid; they are ready to ſeize any thing in the ſea, whoſe owner is not aſcertained, not to plunder the wreck; but of taking a muſcle from the ſea-bed of another, or keeping back a penny of the common fiſh, a ſuſpicion was never heard. They are not deſtitute of the

ſpirit

ſpirit of adventure and ſympathy. On one of the boats off the Cove harbour being overturned in a ſtorm, the men clinging to the bottom of it; their companions were juſt come in with hazard from the ſame danger, oppreſſed by toil, and ſorrow at the ſpectacle, when one of them ſaid, "We live "together, let us die together;" and rouſing his fellows by his example, run down, launched a boat, and reſcued three out of the four periſhing people.

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF BELHELVIE.

(*County of Aberdeen.—Presbytery and Synod of Aberdeen.*)

By the Reverend Mr ALEXANDER JOHN FORSYTH.

Situation.

THIS parish is situated in that division of the county of Aberdeen called Formartin, which division includes all the lands on the sea coast between the rivers Don and Ythan.

Appearance and Soil.—To a stranger who travels on either of the two principal roads in this parish, the appearance of the ground is very unfavourable, as he will see little but heath and stones; notwithstanding which, this parish, particularly on the sea coast, contains many acres of naturally very fertile land, and capable of producing heavy crops of wheat, being a rich loam and clay. However, there is but little wheat sown, owing to improvements here being in their infancy, and to the difficulty of disposing of it, from the bakers in Aberdeen obstinately preferring English flour (though often not so good) to the flour of wheat produced in their own country. Besides a small quantity of wheat and flax, this parish produces great crops of oats, bear, turnip, potatoes, &c. The grain does much more than supply the inhabitants, and the overplus is sent to the Aberdeen market.

Along

Along the ſea coaſt the ſoil is ſandy, and free of rocks; a little farther up it is a deep black mould or loam, and red rich clay. The weſt part of the pariſh is moſſy, and wet in ſome parts; and in other parts dry and rocky, and not ſo much calculated for improvement as the eaſt part. There are hardly any old trees in this diſtrict, except a few ſtraggling maples *(acer pſeudo platanus)* and aſhes, which have been planted near the houſes, of which the firſt ſeems to bear the ſea air beſt. But there have been great foreſts of wood in the moſſes; and, even below the downs, the ſoil is of a moſſy nature, and has been full of wood. The trees in the moſſes ſeem to have been all oak and allar, except ſome fir found in the moſt weſterly parts of the pariſh. About two miles from the ſea the oaks have been moſt numerous, and have grown to the largeſt ſize. Near the ſea there has been little elſe but allar; and, though ſome of theſe trees are found below the benty hillocks, yet they have been ſmall in compariſon of thoſe a little farther up. The allars, in general, are much decayed, but the oaks are found almoſt quite ſound, buried under the moſſes. Some of the heritors are making a few plantations, which are thriving, but require much trouble, as will always be the caſe in an open country expoſed to the winds, eſpecially when ſituated near the ſea.

Improvements.—Notwithſtanding the advantageous ſituation of this pariſh on the ſea coaſt, it has long lain in a ſtate of nature, owing to particular circumſtances. A great part of the pariſh, under the name of the eſtate of Belhelvie, belonged to the Earl of Panmuir, being forfeited in 1715, was purchaſed by the York-Building Company. Short leaſes were univerſally granted, and no improvements of conſequence took place. If the tenant improved with lime, which very ſeldom happened, he took care, when his leaſe was near

near expired, to take ſo many crops of oats as to leave his ground in as bad, if not in a worſe ſtate than when he got it. And it was likewiſe a general method to pare and burn the moſſy ground, which gave a temporary manure, at the expence of the ſoil. This eſtate was in 1782 ſold before the Court of Seſſion, in terms of an act of Parliament. The managers of the ſale divided it into 16 different lots. It was expoſed at 24 years purchaſe, amounting to 22,963 l. 1 s. 8 d. Sterling, and ſold for no leſs a ſum than 30,745 Sterling. Since that time, a rapid improvement has taken place both in that eſtate and other parts of the pariſh. Long leaſes, often 57 years, are given; and the ground, of courſe, is aſſuming a different appearance. The tenants who have got the long leaſes are uſing quantities of lime, and throwing great parts of their ground into graſs and turnip. Even the petty crofters, with liferent or 19 years leaſes, have their patches of ſown graſs, turnip, and potatoes; and winter herding is univerſally eſtabliſhed, which was known of late years only in this country. A great bar to improvement, high multures, are moſtly taken away; and the perſonal ſervices paid in the pariſh are very trifling, and in ſome places quite aboliſhed. The greateſt drawback to improvement ſtill remaining is the caſting, drying, and leading of peats or fuel, which conſumes a great part of the ſummer time that might be much better employed, and will continue to do ſo while the price of coals is ſo greatly enhanced by a duty which produces in the north of Scotland very little revenue to Government, and yet falls heavy on thoſe who pay it, becauſe it is both a partial and an oppreſſive tax.

The wages of a day-labourer is 8 d. ſometimes 9 d. a day; and as, in general, they are but indolent workmen, their payment is not ſo ſmall, as it will appear to thoſe who reſide in England. The women employ themſelves in knitting ſtockings,

ings, to which work they are much attached. And this ſedentary life ſubjects them to nervous complaints, which a more active life would prevent.

Rent.—As there is more firing in this pariſh than in the adjoining ones, a great part of the land is divided into ſmall crofts, for which more rent is paid in proportion than for the large farms; and the crofters ſubſiſt moſtly by day-labour. There are 16 heritors in the pariſh, 4 of whom reſide in it. The 6 principal heritors have from 500 l. to near 700 l. Scots of valued rent each. The valued rent is 4469 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scots. The real rent is greatly increaſed ſince the ſale of the York-Building Company's eſtate; notwithſtanding which, the tenants are much more thriving, as they do not depend upon precarious tenures.

Church and School.—The ſtipend amounts to 72 l. Sterling, 32 bolls of meal, and 15 bolls of bear, with a glebe of about 7 acres. The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter, including his office of ſeſſion-clerk, is about 9 l. Sterling; and he may draw in whole, including perquiſites, about 16 l. *per annum;* a ſmall allowance for ſo uſeful a member of ſociety.

Population.—In 1755, the numbers were rated at 1471. In 1791, they amounted to no more than 1318, being 586 males, and 732 females; of which number, 512 are under 20, 324 between 20 and 40, 270 between 40 and 60, 180 between 60 and 80, and 32 above 80 years of age. There are of married people, widows, and widowers, 337; and theſe have had, in all, 1189 children, of whom 556 are ſons, and 633 daughters. In order to make a more complete compariſon of the preſent and paſt population, there is ſubjoined from the ſeſſion-book a note of the number of baptiſms

tisms for ten years, commencing in 1627, and of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, for ten years, commencing in 1700 and 1780. The account of the baptisms since 1780 may not be perfectly exact; because, since the duty was laid upon the registration of their names, some have neglected to get them registered, but they are not many.

Years.	*Bapt.*	*Years.*	*Bapt.*	*Mar.*	*Deaths.*
1627,	38	1700,	36	9	16
1628,	24	1701,	33	15	14
1629,	32	1702,	39	8	14
1630,	24	1703,	37	14	20
1631,	42	1704,	50	25	30
1632,	59	1705,	39	10	22
1633,	50	1706,	36	12	20
1634,	32	1707,	50	13	13
1635,	20	1708,	51	14	18
1636,	31	1709,	49	6	24
	352		420	126	191
		1780,	37	12	37
		1781,	28	12	23
		1782,	28	9	25
		1783,	23	14	36
		1784,	30	12	32
		1785,	37	15	30
		1786,	18	11	18
		1787,	31	10	14
		1788,	28	8	19
		1789,	38	7	16
			298	110	250

NUM.

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF BALMACLELLAN.

(*Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Preſbytery of Kirkcudbright.—Synod of Galloway.*)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES THOMSON.

Name, &c.

BALMACLELLAN is one of the four pariſhes in the northern diſtrict of the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, commonly known by the name of *Glenkens* *. This pariſh, like ſome others in different parts of our iſland, ſeems to have derived its name from its ancient proprietors. A conſiderable branch of the family of *Maclellans* having, till lately, for ſeveral centuries poſſeſſed the lands contiguous to the church and village, are ſuppoſed to have transferred their name to their property: So that *Bal* in the Gaelic language, as is believed, implying a townſhip or manor, the compounded name *Balmaclellan* will therefore ſignify the manor or townſhip of the Maclellans.

This clan was at one time ſo reſpectable and numerous, that 13 knights of the name of Maclellan are ſaid to have lived at the ſame time, poſſeſſed of property in the different diſtricts

* That is, the *ſtrath* or dales by the ſide of the Kenn. The three remaining pariſhes of the diſtrict are Dalry, Kells, and Carſephairn.

districts of Galloway and Nithsdale *. A branch of this clan was afterwards ennobled by the title of *Kirkcudbright*. The honours remain, but the family possessions are long since alienated.

Bounds.—The parish of Balmaclellan is of an oblong figure. The river Kenn forms its western boundary; and Urr, flowing from a lake or loch of that name on the eastern extremity of the parish, becomes its march for about two thirds of the whole breadth. The north and southern boundaries are marked by rivulets, which, proceeding generally from the intervening lakes, fall differently towards the Kenn or Urr.

Appearance.—The surface of the parish is generally moorish; and, of the whole, scarcely one fourth supposed arable. It exhibits more of a level appearance than most of the parishes in its neighbourhood. It is not, however, without its eminences, a considerable range of pretty high hills stretching themselves along its northern march. From the top of these, although by no means the highest in this tract of country, in serene weather, may be discovered the sea at 20 miles distance, with the larger shipping of the Solway Frith, objects which, in this inland situation, deserve not to pass without attention. Towards the land, the country generally opens to a range nearly of the same extent, presenting the observer with a very enlarged, but rugged landskip. Hills rising behind each other by degrees confound the view, which is at last terminated by the lofty tops of Goatfield in Arran, the hill of Enterkin, and the Cumbrian mountains, some of which are not less than 60 miles distant.

Of the surface of the parish, about 60 acres are supposed to be covered with wood, and nearly 20 or 25 with water. The

* See Crawford's Peerage, title *Kirkcudbright*.

The woods, chiefly natural, lie along the banks of the Kenn. Theſe are well preſerved, and in good condition. Thoſe more inland are generally low and ſcraggy, calculated more for ſhelter than for uſe. The lochs or lakes are five, variouſly ſcattered around the hills, plentifully ſtocked either with eels, trout, or pike; and ſome with all theſe ſpecies in common. One, in particular, named *Loch Brack*, although of very ſmall extent, is remarkable for an excellent ſort of trout, diſtinguiſhed alike for ſize and colour, meaſuring from 9 to 18 inches in length, and many of them weighing 8 or 10 Engliſh pounds.

Soil and Agriculture.—The ſoil of this pariſh is chiefly of two kinds. The firſt, lying along the Kenn, on the weſtern ſide of the pariſh, is generally dry, light, and gravelliſh; remarkable for its kindlineſs, and needs only the aſſiſtance of ſome exciting manure, as lime or marl, to render it productive of the moſt abundant crops. This ſoil, which comprehends the principal arable part of the pariſh, generally reaches inland to about two miles diſtance from the banks of the Kenn. The other, which occupies the middle and eaſtern parts, conſiſts generally of a light, but ſometimes of a deeper moſs, both commonly covered with heath. Of theſe, the former is often found mixed with earth, but is commonly ſo ragged and perplexed with ſtones and rock, as to defy every attempt of the plough to better its condition. Even here, however, there are interſperſed parcels of a much ſuperior kind, and but little differing from the ſoil deſcribed on the weſtern ſide. On ſuch ſpots the farm-houſes are generally ſet down. There they enjoy the benefit of planting abundance of potatoes, of ſowing a little rye, barley, or oats; but theſe laſt moſt frequently in quantities by no means ſufficient for the conſumption of the farm.

On the north-eaſt extremity of the pariſh, where the ſoil is good, and the roads open, there is one large farm already in part covered with lime from Cloſeburn, which has yielded crops by no means inferior to thoſe in the moſt eſteemed diſtricts of the country.

The crops produced in this pariſh are chiefly oats, rye, barley, and potatoes, the culture of wheat or turnip having been but ſeldom attempted in this diſtrict. The plough is here drawn generally with three, although now frequently with two horſes; and potatoes are beginning to be planted regularly in drills, ſo as to admit of the horſe-hoeing culture. On the whole, in this interior part of the country, a methodical ſtile in farming can yet be reckoned only in its infancy; and the pariſh, according to the preſent mode of cultivation, is not ſuppoſed to grow within itſelf above three fourths of its own conſumption.

From the deſcription already given of the ſurface of the pariſh, it will be eaſily perceived that the greater part is only fit for paſturage. The ſheep and black cattle are both eſteemed good, being of the true Galloway breed; and there is a greater breed of horſes in the pariſh than might be expected from the numbers kept. The little labour required in moſt of theſe farms, added to the cheapneſs of paſture, generally diſpoſes the farmer to turn ſome of his mares to breed, which in two or three years repays him better than any other way in which he could have employed his capital. From a pretty accurate computation, there are ſuppoſed to be in the pariſh 8200 ſheep, 1340 black cattle, 130 horſes, a few goats, and not more than a dozen of ſwine.

The valuation of this pariſh in the county books is 3481 l. Scots; the preſent rental nearly 1900 l. Sterling. This is divided among 14 proprietors, of whom only three are reſident. The principal heritors are the Honourable John Gordon

don of Kenmore, and Alexander Spalding Gordon, Eſquire, of Shirmers, ſheriff-depute of Wigton.

Population.—In 1755, the numbers were 534. By a very accurate account taken in perſon by the preſent miniſter, the population of the pariſh on the firſt day of January 1792 ſtood as follows:

Males	231	Of theſe under 10 years of age—Males	41
Females	264	Females	49
Total	495	Total	90
		Above 70 years of age—Males	13
		Females	6
		Total	19

Married	155
Unmarried	305
Widowers	10
Widows	25
	495

The oldeſt man in the pariſh is 86, and the oldeſt woman 84.

Antiburghers - - -	7
Macmillanites - -	3

Of the above inhabitants, the greater number live in the country, there being but one village in the pariſh, viz. that by the church, and that conſiſting only of 77 perſons. The decreaſe of population may be accounted for in different ways. The engroſſment of farms, and increaſe of paſturage, diminiſhed the hands neceſſary for agriculture. To this may be joined, as an additional reaſon, the change of property. Of five families of diſtinction formerly reſident within the pariſh, the number is now reduced to one. Theſe were generally ſerved by a numerous train of dependants, who, under the name of *cottars*, moſtly married, and living therefore in ſeparate families, added conſiderably to the population of the neighbourhood;

neighbourhood; all of which have now given place to the unmarried and domeſtic ſervant of the farmer. The ſuppreſſion of the cottagers is a matter deſerving very ſerious conſideration: The conſequences will ſoon be ſeverely felt.

The diviſion of labour is ſuch as may be expected in a ſociety who generally live and dreſs on their own productions. In the pariſh were formerly accounted about 46 or 50 farms. Theſe are now held by 30 perſons, who pay of rent as follows:

From	10 l.	to 20 l.	6
——	20 l.	to 40 l.	10
——	40 l.	to 60 l.	7
——	60 l.	to 100 l.	0
——	100 l.	to 120 l.	2
——	120 l.	to 150 l.	3
——	150 l.	to 180 l.	2

Average of perſons to a family, $4\frac{1}{8}$.

The average rent ſcarcely exceeds 2 s. 6 d. *per* acre. The beſt land in the pariſh lets at about four times that rate. There are in the pariſh 120 families, 3 mills, 2 blackſmiths, 6 weavers, 4 taylors, 4 ſhoemakers, 2 carpenters, and 1 maſon. The wages of houſe-ſervants are, men, from 6 l. to 7 l. and women from 3 l. to 3 l. 10 s. a year. Day-labourers are from 8 d. to 10 d. with, and from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d. without victuals.

The manners and deſcription of the inhabitants of this pariſh are ſuch as may be expected from a mixed ſociety. Generally expoſed in the open air, and in all varieties of weather, their bodies acquire a hardineſs unknown to thoſe in a more ſedentary ſituation. Converſant with a greater number of objects, their minds diſcover an expanſion of ideas much beyond the mere manufacturer, or vulgar citizen. Their prominent virtues are peaceableneſs and ſobriety, altho'

by

by no means deprived of that portion of ſpirit which is neceſſary on occaſions to aſſert their rights. Since the commencement of the preſent century, there is no recollection of any one having ſuffered capital puniſhment, or having fallen under the imputation of any atrocious crime. There are but three perſons in the pariſh who have ever ſerved in the army or navy. The young men generally adventure in the civil line, either in the character of mechanics or merchants; of which laſt, the moſt are itinerant in the north of England. There is no foreigner, or any other than natives of Scotland at preſent reſident within the pariſh.

Authors.—No writers of very eminent genius can be claimed by this pariſh, if it is denied right to Thomas Gordon, the celebrated author of the *Independent Whig*. This very keen and acute writer, the ſevereſt ſcourge of the Engliſh hierarchy, whom the compilers of the Scotch Encyclopaedia erroneouſly ſtate as belonging to Kirkcudbright, was certainly a native either of this or the neighbouring pariſh of Kells. Near branches of his family were ſettled in both; and it is not at this day certain, or indeed material, in which of them he was born.

Church.—The church and manſe of Balmaclellan were built more than 40 years ago, but have both undergone ſeveral repairs ſince that period. The offices are totally ruinous; they are ordered to be rebuilt the enſuing ſummer. The preſent value of the living is, in money, exactly 75 l. and a glebe valued at 20 l. or 25 l. a year. The King is patron.

Regiſters.—So far as can be collected, except for ten years, there has been no regular public regiſter kept in this pariſh.

This

This was the neglect of former times. But a different cause, in future, is likely to operate to the same effect, an act of Parliament, passed in the sessions of 1783, imposing a tax of 3 d. on every birth, burial, Christening, and marriage. This tax, trifling in itself, has been viewed by the lower people with a degree of jealousy very disproportioned to its object. Perhaps the lowness of the tax in question is the chief reason why it cannot be enforced. However this be, the above mentioned act of Parliament has put an end to the registers in most of the parishes of this neighbourhood. The people refuse to pay. The clerk who would act under the act of Parliament, besides taking out a licence at 5 s. is bound, under the penalty of 20 l. to make faithful return for every name entered on the register; a penalty of 50 l. being also imposed on any person who shall presume to keep a parochial register without complying with the above conditions. So that in a parish like this, where the whole duties to Government would not amount to more than 4 s. 6 d. or 5 s. yearly, through the refractoriness of individuals, and apprehension of penalty, the parish at large is deprived of a record which might one day be necessary for proving their propinquity, or securing their claims.

Poor.—The funds of this parish, at an average, amount yearly to about 9 l. Sterling. This is wholly collected from the people at the church-doors, there being no assessment in the parish, and the non-residing heritors contributing seldom any thing to the relief of the poor. There is also a small fund of former savings, amounting to between 60 l. and 70 l. lying at interest in different hands.

The stated poor are few, at present amounting to but about four or five persons. They are mostly able still to earn the greater part of their own subsistence. But there are several

supernumeraries

ſupernumeraries dependant on the ſeſſion from time to time receiving aſſiſtance, whoſe various demands throughout the year amount to as much or more than thoſe of the ordinary poor.

School.—In addition to the legal ſchool ſalary of this pariſh, amounting to about 11 l. Sterling or thereby, there was a few years ago a donation made of 500 l. by a native of this place, a Mr Murdoch late merchant in Glaſgow. This fund is ſecured on land, which, at preſent, is ſaid to yield more than 5 *per cent.*; ſo that the ſchool ſalary of this pariſh now amounts to nearly 36 l. This, however, is the whole income of the maſter, the terms of the donation not permitting him to receive wages.

Diſadvantages.—The peculiar diſadvantages of this pariſh are chiefly of two kinds, neither of which, unfortunately for it, can well be remedied, viz. its ſoil, and its local ſituation. Nearly one fourth of the pariſh, as before deſcribed, being, from its ſoil, incapable of culture, is a manifeſt diſadvantage attached to property in this ſituation, and which no efforts of genius or of induſtry can ſurmount. Even here, however, there is not wanting ſcope for conſiderable meliorations. A ſuperior mode of fencing and ſubdividing farms, are improvements of which the coarſeſt ſoils are capable. A little wood planted in convenient ſituations in every farm would gratify the eye, and, what is of much greater utility, in 12 or 15 years would protect the cattle and flocks, which, for want of ſuch ſhelter, in this expoſed and bleak ſituation often ſuffer materially in time of ſtorms. A more liberal mode of building and repairing farm-houſes, ſomewhat removed from the awkward ſlovenlineſs of former times, are alſo improvements highly neceſſary in this part of the country. To which may be

be added, the evident neceſſity of a little more attention in rendering the ſeveral farms acceſſible by roads. It is almoſt impoſſible to conceive how, for centuries, theſe roads have been permitted to lie in a ſtate of nature, unpaſſable to any ſtranger without a guide, and often to the inhabitant himſelf without much danger, which in a few days the idle ſhepherd or farm ſervant could have repaired.

The other diſadvantage of the pariſh already hinted, viz. that of its local ſituation, muſt for a long time, and indeed for ever, in a conſiderable degree, act as a bar to the improvement of that part of it whoſe ſoil is abundantly adapted to agriculture. Almoſt 20 miles diſtant from lime in every direction, it is not to be wondered that this ſort of improvement has been but partially attempted. The Carlinwark marl, which is ſix miles nearer, and which may be brought up Loch Kenn to the verge of the pariſh, together with the original coſt, and the additional expence of water carriage, is thought to be a manure of too bulky a kind to be carried to any diſtance from the landing place. On the whole, the attempts both in lime and marl which have been already made, have, in themſelves, anſwered the moſt ſanguine expectations. Their diſtance, hitherto, is the only objection to their general introduction in this neighbourhood. It is to be hoped, however, that the conveniency of better roads, which is faſt taking place, together with a higher ſpirit for farming in general, will combine to reſcue this part of the country from that ſupineneſs under which it has hitherto laboured.

A great advantage to this neighbourhood are its *public roads*. The two great roads from Wigton to Edinburgh, and from Carlinwark and the lower parts of this county to Ayrſhire, interſect each other at this point. But what offers principal advantage is the road propoſed to be opened between Dumfries and Newtonſtewart by this place. This, which

which will ſhorten the diſtance between theſe two places, by the odds of nearly 10 or 12 miles, will alſo enſure a large proportion of the Iriſh travellers to paſs this way. The country will be opened up, the value of its productions increaſed, and a freer communication with ſtrangers will correct the operation of local prejudices.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF LOCHMABEN.

(County of Dumfries, Diſtrict of Annandale.—Preſbytery of Lochmaben.—Synod of Dumfries.)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW JAFFRAY.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

IN the pariſh of Lochmaben, there are 7 or 8 lochs, whence it is moſt likely that it derived its name. According to tradition, there was a nunnery in the largeſt of them, where a caſtle afterwards ſtood; and ſome, who are acquainted with the Gaelic, ſay, that Lochmaben ſignifies the *Loch of the Maidens*, or the *Loch of the Fair*. Lochmaben is ſituated in Annandale, a diſtrict of the ſhire of Dumfries, lying along the banks of the Annan, to the length of about 10 miles, and in breadth about 3. It is about 8 miles from Dumfries, and 12 from the town of Annan, where the river runs into the Solway Frith.

Town of Lochmaben.—Lochmaben is a royal borough, ſuppoſed to be very antient, and governed by a provoſt, three baillies, a dean of guild, treaſurer, and nine common council men. There is a charter of *novodamus* by James VI. dated the 16th July 1612, giving, as a reaſon for the renewal, the inroads of the Engliſh, who had plundered and burnt the town, and deſtroyed their records. Tradition ſays, that it was

was erected into a royal borough by Robert Bruce I. King of Scotland, whoſe paternal eſtate was the great lordſhip of Annandale. He gave the borough lands out of his own eſtate. It has been a town of greater note formerly than now, and has extenſive borough roods and town commonty. Much of it is feued off, from which they have but a ſmall feu-duty. There may be about 700 inhabitants in the town and borough roods.

Linen Manufacture.—There is a conſiderable manufacture carried on, in the town and country round it, of coarſe linen cloth, to the extent of 60,000 yards yearly, which is all ſold into England, moſtly unbleached, at from 6 d. to 1 s. or 13 d. *per* yard.

Church.—The church is an old Gothic fabric, dedicated to St. Magdalen. In a bloody family feud, between the Maxwells of Nithſdale, and the Johnſtons of Annandale, it ſuffered much. In an engagement between theſe on a plain called Dryfe Sands, the Maxwells, who were defeated with great ſlaughter, fled, and took ſanctuary in the church of Lochmaben, and were purſued by the Johnſtons, who burned the church to the ground. This happened about the year 1591. There appears to have been alſo ſeveral ſmall chapels in the pariſh, the veſtiges of which now ſcarcely remain. The ſtipend is 105 l. The Viſcount of Stormont is patron.

Caſtle at the Town.—There is the ſite of a very antient caſtle cloſe to the town, on a noble ſituation, between the caſtle and kirk lochs, ſurrounded by a deep moat and foſſe. Tradition ſays, the ſtones of it were carried away to build another caſtle. It commands a pleaſant proſpect over an extenſive plain, and was originally the ſeat of Robert Bruce,

Lord

Lord of Annandale, before that family came to the crown of Scotland. They had other two ſeats, one at Annan, the other at Hoddam; and a very great eſtate, which continued in their poſſeſſion long after they came to the crown. It is ſaid, that Robert Bruce I. king of Scotland, was born in this caſtle. The ground on which it ſtood belongs now to Robert Maxwell, Eſq; whoſe predeceſſors have been in poſſeſſion of it for 200 years, when David Maxwell their anceſtor, was appointed ſub-governor of the Caſtle of Lochmaben, by Lord Maxwell, warden of the Weſtern Borders, and keeper of the ſaid caſtle. There are ſufficient documents for this in the hands of the ſaid Robert Maxwell, and in the town books of Lochmaben. The ſaid Mr Maxwell, and his predeceſſors, have been often and long provoſts of Lochmaben.

Caſtle Loch, and Caſtle.—The Caſtle Loch is a large and beautiful ſheet of water, lying ſouth of the town, in length a mile and a half, and in mean breadth a mile, abounding in a variety of fiſh. It is affirmed by the fiſhermen, that there are 15 or 16 different kinds fit for the table, among which there is one that, from every information that can be obtained, is peculiar to that loch, as it is to be found no where elſe in Britain. It is called the *Vendiſe* or *Vendace*, ſome ſay from Vendois in France, as being brought from thence by one of the Jameſes, which is not very probable, as it is found by experience to die the moment it is touched, and has been attempted to be tranſported to other lochs in the neighbourhood, where it has always died. It is generally about the ſize of a ſmall herring, which it reſembles much in external appearance and in its anatomy; it has the taſte and flavour of a freſh herring, not quite ſo ſtrong, but more delicate, and is reckoned the moſt delicious fiſh that ſwims. They lie in the deepeſt parts of the loch, and are caught with a net.

The

The pike, which is the tyrant of the lake, deſtroys many of them. We have heard of a freſh water herring in Lochlomond, it might be worth while to enquire, whether they are the ſame with our Vendiſes. They have the mark of a heart on the crown of the head.

The caſtle ſtands upon a peninſula of the loch, and is by far the largeſt and ſtrongeſt of any, either on the Engliſh or Scotch borders, next to Carliſle, againſt which it was a frontier garriſon. It was built by Robert Bruce, the firſt of that name king of Scotland. The original caſtle occupies about an acre of ground, and contains three courts, ſtrongly built of ſtone and lime. The walls are twelve feet thick. It was ſurrounded by three deep foſſes, each of which was filled with water from the loch, that met on either ſide. The whole fortification may contain 13 acres. The inner foſſée went through the caſtle, within which there was a baſon for holding the boats, to place them out of the reach of the enemy, and to ſhelter them from the weather. The principal entry to the caſtle ſeems to have been by water. It has been a very ſtrong place, and, before the invention of cannon, might be ſaid to be impregnable. Even in the preſent ſtate of fortification, it might be made a place of ſtrength, as it is ſurrounded by water and marſhy ground for a mile, and only a narrow neck of land for the entry. Before the union of the Crowns, a garriſon of 200 men was conſtantly kept in it. Among the titles of the Marquis of Annandale, he aſſumes that of Conſtable, or Hereditary Keeper of the Caſtle of Lochmaben. The governor had a ſalary of 300 l. Scotch, (a conſiderable ſum, it is ſuppoſed, in thoſe days), along with the fiſhing of the lochs. Though King James VI. in the foreſaid charter, granted in the year 1612, gives the fiſhing of all the lochs to the borough of Lochmaben, yet the proprietors of the Caſtle have always enjoyed the property,

and

and excluſive privilege of fiſhing in the Caſtle and Mill Lochs with boats, nets, &c. The great eſtate of Murray Earl of Annandale, of which the Caſtle and Barony of Lochmaben is a part, fell, by ſucceſſion, to Murray Lord Viſcount Stormonth, who alſo claims the title of Hereditary Keeper, and Conſtable of the Caſtle of Lochmaben.

Lairdner-mart Cow.—The governor or conſtable of the Caſtle, had alſo, for the maintenance of the garriſon, what was called *Laird a Mairt*, or *Lairdner Mart* Cow, which was one of the beſt fat cows out of every pariſh in Annandale. It is not above 60 years ſince it was lifted by the Marquis of Annandale. The converſion of it was 20 l. Scots, and was lifted out of 33 pariſhes, (which number is now reduced, by annexations, at the Reformation, to 21); and 39 meadow geeſe and *Faſten's-e'en* * hens. All the pariſhes, at that time, joined in procuring a ſuſpenſion, which was never recalled, or any payment demanded ſince. The Caſtle has long been in total ruin, and there is nothing now ſtanding but a ſmall part of the heart of the wall. The fine aſhlar work is all ſtript off, and there are few houſes in the neighbourhood, in which ſome of the ſtones are not to be ſeen. This is much to be regretted; for had it been left to the devouring teeth of time alone, it would have been to this day the nobleſt ruin in Scotland. It is ſurrounded by a large tract of land, called the Caſtlemains, in a very uncultivated ſtate, in which are two large lochs. In former times there was a deer park, and a very extenſive oak foreſt. Theſe caſtles, and this part of the country in general, were the ſcenes of ſome of the heroic actions of the renowned Sir William Wallace of Ellerſlie.

Loch-

* *Faſten's-e'en* ſignifies the evening before Shrove Tueſday.

Lochmaben Barony, or Four Towns.—Contiguous to the Caſtlemains lies Lochmaben Barony, or, as it is more commonly called, the Four Towns, a very large tract of rich fertile land on the banks of the Annan. The tenants hold their land by a very ſingular and peculiar tenure.—They are commonly called the King's kindly tenants. The original poſſeſſors were the garriſon of the Caſtle, to whom the lands were granted for their attendance on the duties of the garriſon, or, as ſome ſay, the domeſtic ſervants of the caſtle. There are three kinds of tenure of lands in Scotland, *Firſt*, The feudal, which prevails over all Scotland, and indeed over Europe, in different modifications, according to the different laws and conſtitutions of the countries where it prevails. *Secondly*, the *Allodial*, which, in the German language, ſignifies *free*, without paying any quit rent, or having a ſuperior; and, *Thirdly*, the *Udal*, being a right compleat without writing; this obtains in Orkney and Zetland, and in the holdings of the Four Towns in the Pariſh of Lochmaben. As to the two firſt, antiquarians and lawyers may inveſtigate them; with reſpect to the laſt, the lands of Four Towns were granted by one of our kings to his houſehold ſervants, or garriſon of the Caſtle, and the property of each being ſmall, they were allowed, as a kind of indulgence, to hold it without the neceſſity of charter and ſaſine, bare poſſeſſion being a ſufficient title. The tenants pay a ſmall rent to the Viſcount of Stormont, but have no charter or ſaſine from him. The property of theſe lands is transferred from one perſon to another, by delivery and poſſeſſion only; but they muſt be entered in the rental in Lord Stormont's rental-book, which is done without fee or reward. The tenants right was renewed by James VI. and Charles II. confirmed by the Court of Seſſion, and by a decree of the Britiſh Houſe of Peers, the 28th December 1726, and 14th

January

January 1727. The diſtrict is called Four Towns, as comprehending four populous villages. Their poſſeſſions are generally ſmall. The land on the river ſide is rich and fertile, peculiarly favourable for the growth of flax, of which they raiſe a good quantity. Many of the men are weavers. The women ſpin their own flax, and a good deal of foreign flax alſo. Their poſſeſſions and valuations are diſtinguiſhed by *acres*. There is a peculiarity in their land meaſure, and the ell by which their acres have been meaſured (called the Barony ell), contains 42 inches, whereas the common ell made uſe of in the country, is only 38 inches.

Four Towns Commonty.—There was a large and extenſive commonty contiguous to the Four Towns, which they had an intereſt in. It was divided ſome years ago; they had a large ſhare of it. Their ſeveral ſhares are moſtly now improven, and are of higher value than their original property acres. On many of their ſhares are built ſmall farm houſes, which has conſiderably increaſed the number of inhabitants of the pariſh.

Sirnames in the Four Towns.—The prevailing ſirnames of this diſtrict are, Richardſon, Rae, Kennedy, Nicholſon, Wright, &c. of which the Richardſons are by far the moſt numerous. They add bye-names or nicknames to diſtinguiſh one family from another of the ſame name. If poſſeſſing the ſame lands, from father to ſon, for many generations denominates an old family, and gives the appellation of *gentleman*, here are numbers who have a juſt claim to that title, having poſſeſſed the ſame ridges and acres for 500 years. Some of theſe names are to be found among the companions of Wallace and Bruce, in his wars for the recovery of his antient inheritance of the kingdom of Scotland. They are

now

now engaged in a proceſs of diviſion and excambion of their property lands, which were formerly all run-ridge. This, when finiſhed, will add much to their advantage, and to the beauty of the country.

Rockhall Moat.—There is a moat in the pariſh, called Rockhall Moat, of which there are many in this part of the country, and of the moſt remote antiquity. This is a moſt beautiful mount of earth, perfectly round, and terminating in a ſharp top; it is larger than many of them, and is very entire. It ſtands on the ſide of a ridge of hills, which ſeparates Annandale from Nithſdale, and overlooks an extenſive plain on the foot of the river Nith, part of Galloway, and all the Solway Frith. As to the uſe of theſe moats, it is generally agreed, that the people met on them to make laws, and adminiſter juſtice. To this day, the Twelve Keys of the Iſle of Man, who are their parliament, meet on one of thoſe mounts, in the open air; and ſome of the court-houſes in England are called the *mote*, or *mute*, or *moot-hall*. The public courts among the Saxons were called *Witten-mote*, or *Witten-a-gemote*, which was the original of parliaments in England, according to Rapin.

Soil.—The ſoil is very rich and fertile on the banks of the rivers. There are three, viz. Kinnel, Ae, and Dryfe, that join the Annan, all within a mile of one another in this pariſh. Theſe lands are exceedingly rich, but they are ſometimes overflowed in the winter, which adds to their fertility. The lands on the riſing ground are good, and very capable of improvement, and raiſe good crops, when properly managed. It is all arable, though not yet wholly in tillage.

Lime.—The manure made uſe of is lime, brought 12 and 14 miles diſtance; the price is 11 d. the Carliſle buſhel, two of which make one Linlithgow boll.

Coal.—The coal, with which it is burnt, is brought from England, which is the reaſon of the high price. This coal, when carried by water, is liable to a high duty. There is no coal on the whole coaſt of Galloway, Nithſdale, or Annandale; they are moſtly ſupplied with that article from Cumberland, on the other ſide of the Solway Frith. It is to be regretted, that the people who live at a great diſtance ſhould, after ſhipping and unloading, paying freight, and carrying it many miles by land, after all be obliged to pay a heavy duty; while the people who live at the coal-pit ſhould pay nothing, and at the ſame time all living under the ſame king, government, and laws. It is aſſerted, by thoſe who know, that a farthing on the cart load, at the coal-pit, which would be little felt, and eaſier collected, would bring more money to government than all this duty. There have been frequent attempts made to obtain ſome redreſs in this matter, but hitherto without ſucceſs. The fuel moſtly made uſe of in this part is peat. The moſſes are wearing out. Coal that is uſed for fuel and burning lime, is brought at 30 and 40 miles diſtance by land; and notwithſtanding of the long land carriage, there have been great improvements made, by breaking up mooriſh and wild lands, with the aſſiſtance of lime, without which one cannot pretend to improve thoſe kinds of ground, to any profit or advantage. The rich lands on the banks of the rivers, may let for 20 s. to 25 s. *per* acre; the uplands not ſo high.

Farms.—The farms are generally very ſmall; there is only

ly one in the pariſh, the rent of which is 80 l. *per annum*. This contributes much to the populouſneſs of the pariſh.

Mills.—There are two corn mills, which do the moſt of the work in the pariſh. There are two lint mills, which are inſufficient to perform the work that would come to them.

Swine.——Swine are become a conſiderable article of commerce in this country, of late years. Every body, even the cottars, feed ſwine; many of the farmers 5 or 6, or more in the year. When fat, they are ſold at between 3 l. 10 s. and 4 l. Sterling *per* head, or $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. *per* pound, as uncured pork; when ſalted and dried, they ſell at 6 d. *per* pound. There are people who make a trade of ſalting and curing it. It is moſtly ſold into England; ſome little to Edinburgh. It is a ready money traffic, and brings a deal of caſh into the country. There may be 1000 l. worth ſold in this pariſh annually, beſides what is conſumed by the inhabitants. It is affirmed by ſome, who are converſant in that buſineſs, that from Nith to Sark and Eſkfoot, on the border of England, an extent of country of about 30 miles the longeſt way, and about 16 the ſhorteſt, there is above 20,000 l. brought in annually for ſwine. They do not breed many in this pariſh. The young ones are moſtly brought from England.

Salmon Fiſhing.—There is a fine ſalmon fiſhing on the Annan, which belongs moſtly to the pariſh of Lochmaben. In wet ſeaſons the fiſh are very rich and plentiful. They are ſold, in their ſeaſon, commonly at 3 d. *per* pound.

Population.—Number of inhabitants in 1755, - 1395
Souls in this pariſh, about - - - 3000

Annual

Annual average of births, - - -	150
——— of marriages, - - -	18

State of the Poor.—There is a great number of poor in this pariſh. There are 30 on the roll, that are ſerved quarterly out of the public charity, which is but a ſmall pittance to each, there being no fund or proviſion made for their ſupport, but what is collected in the church. Thoſe that are able are allowed to beg from door to door; and many ſtrollers and idle vagrants are ſuffered to travel in the country, with which it is greatly oppreſſed, and by this means the poor of the pariſh are robbed of that charity which properly belongs to them.

School.—There is a legal ſchool in the pariſh, of 200 merks of ſalary. James Richardſon of Reading, in England, mortified, on the 26th of March 1726, the ſum of 400 l. Sterling, in the following manner, viz. 200 l. to the grammar ſchool of Lochmaben; the intereſt of it to be paid to the maſter, under the obligation of teaching 10 poor ſcholars, of the pariſh of Lochmaben, Engliſh, Latin, writing, and arithmetic, *gratis*: Another 100 l. for ſupporting a library, and keeping in repair a good houſe, built by the ſaid Mr Richardſon, for the uſe of the ſchoolmaſter, and for preſerving, ſupplying, and continuing the ſaid library: And the intereſt of the laſt 100 l. to go for a ſchool in Hightae, for the benefit of the whole Four Towns.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF URRAY.

(Counties of Roſs and Inverneſs.—Preſbytery of Dingwall.—Synod of Roſs.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN DOWNIE.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

URRAY is compoſed of the united pariſhes of Urray and Kilchriſt. The former ſeems to derive its name from its local ſituation. The church and burying-ground lie on a large plain, on the banks of the rapid river Orrin, near its conflux with the Connon. The Orrin has, in the courſe of ages, evidently ſhifted its bed, and its paſſable fords, through every part of that plain, and would repeat its ravages almoſt every ſeaſon, were it not reſtrained by the annual exertions of the ſurrounding proprietors. Hence it is probable, the name is derived from *Ur-a*, the *new ford*. *Kilchriſt* is evidently *Cella Chriſti*, a burying ground conſecrated to Chriſt.—It is ſituated chiefly in the county of Roſs: A ſmall part of it lies in Inverneſs-ſhire. It extends from the Frith of Beauly on the ſouth, to the north ſide of the river Connon, about 7 Engliſh miles in a ſtraight line, nearly from ſouth to north. Its breadth on the banks of the Connon, from eaſt to weſt, is about 6 Engliſh miles, but does not exceed 3 towards the ſouthern boundary, along the Frith of Beauly. The intermediate ſpace lines the foot of the great chain of mountains which

which extend from thence to the weſt coaſt of Scotland. There is a *davoch* of land belonging to this pariſh in the valley of Strathconnon, in the boſom of the weſtern mountains, at the diſtance of 10 computed, or 18 Engliſh miles. It is ſurrounded by the pariſh of Contin, and forms a part of the miſſion in that pariſh.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The general face of the pariſh preſents a picturesque view of corn-fields, intermixed with barren muir, clumps of natural wood *, rapid ſtreams, large plantations around gentlemen's ſeats, with different views of the two beautiful Friths of Dingwall and Beauly, which, as canals formed by the hand of nature, and penetrating for upwards of 20 miles into a populous country, invite the merchant and manufacturer to ſettle on their banks.—The ſoil is as various as the general face of the ground; but, on the whole, is warm, dry, and productive. The fields on the ſlopes of the riſing grounds are comparatively of a richer ſoil than the low ground, except a part of the eſtate of Lovat, which once belonged to the priory of Beauly, and is a deep, rich, carſe ground. The plains abound with pebbles, from 4 to 6 or 8 pound weight, evidently rounded by friction, and intermixed with beds of dry ſand and gravel. Hence a conſiderable part of the low ground is barren dry muir, producing only a ſhort heath; and the arable land (with a few exceptions) of inferior quality to that on the high lands. On one eſtate there are ſeveral ſmall hollows

ſurrounded

* Every little burn and meadow preſents a buſh of natural wood, conſiſting moſtly of aller, interſperſed with aſh. There are a few buſhes of birch, ſome oaks and willows. Around gentlemen's ſeats there are to be ſeen large plantations of firs, and other foreſt trees. They continue to plant every year, particularly Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth, who rears an extenſive nurſery for that purpoſe.

ſurrounded by this dry barren ſoil, which ſeem to have been once ſmall lakes, but are now filled with peat moſs. On the bottom of ſeveral of them ſome ſtrata of ſhell marl have been found. Theſe phenomena ſeem to prove the exiſtence of a general deluge, by which theſe ſtones have been rounded, and the ſhells depoſited. There are no lakes or ſwampy ground in the pariſh, except one large meadow on the banks of the Connon.—The air is dry, and free from noxious vapours, which conduces greatly to the healthfulneſs of the climate. No part of the common road, between the Frith of Beauly and the river Connon, (which is almoſt the whole length of the pariſh), ſeems to be above 50 feet higher than the ſurface of the ſea. It is defended on the eaſt from the ſtorms of the German Ocean by a tract of country, upwards of 20 miles in extent, towards Tain and Cromarty, on the north by the hill of Weavas, and on the weſt by the great chain of mountains ſtretching to the weſt coaſt. It is worth remarking, that the weſtern mountains make the weather alternately foul and fair on the eaſt and weſt borders of them, in ſome meaſure ſimilar to the monſoons on the Malabar and Coromandel coaſts. The weſt and ſouth-weſt winds blow moſt frequently, during which it generally rains on the weſt coaſt, and is fair weather on this ſide of the hills; or, at moſt, there are only ſlight occaſional ſhowers. On the other hand, the eaſt wind uniformly brings rain or ſleet on the eaſt coaſt; but the ſtorm dies away in the intermediate hills, and there is dry weather and ſunſhine on the weſt coaſt.

Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle.—Barley, oats, and potatoes, are the principal crops *. Moſt of the gentlemen have incloſed

* In the diſtrict of which this is a part, from Inverneſs round by Beauly to Dingwall, grain ſells higher than in any other

incloſed their farms; and, by putting them into a rotation of fallow, corn, and green crops, give a laudable example in agriculture to their tenants. They uſe the Engliſh plough with two horſes, without a driver, with moſt of the other inſtruments of huſbandry uſed in the Lothians. The tenants, however, have not yet ſurmounted their prejudices in favour of old cuſtoms, and are ſatisfied with following the mode uſed by their grand-ſires, except in the culture of potatoes, which has taken place only within the laſt 30 years. The lands are ſtill open; nor do they ſhew any deſire to have them incloſed. They uſe a plough peculiar to the country, drawn for the moſt part by ſix ſmall oxen, or by two horſes and four oxen. Almoſt every kind of carriage is performed with carts *. The wheels are timber tumblers, bought at about 2s. the pair, on which are placed frames for the different purpoſes, made by the tenants themſelves Horſes are the only

other place in the north of Scotland. The reaſon is, that it abounds with licenced ſtills, which conſume the barley. It is the neareſt corn country to a large extent of the weſt coaſt and Mid Highlands. The Highlanders are ſupplied from thence with oat meal and whiſky: Hence conſiderable quantities of barley and oat-meal are imported by the Friths of Dingwall and Beauly to a ſure and ready market Home-made barley of crops 1789 and 1790 ſold at 18s. *per* boll. At the ſame time, barley ſold in Murray at 16s. and 16s. 6d. Oat-meal of theſe crops ſold at from 16s. to 18s. 9 ſtones barley of crop 1791, ſells at from 18s. 6d. to 20s. *per* boll. Potatoes generally ſell at from 6d. to 8d. a peck; beef, from 2d. to 4d. a pound; mutton and pork at 2½ d.; a hen at 6d.; chickens at 2d. each; eggs at 1½ d. *per* dozen; a wedder of the country breed at 6s.

* The great number of cottagers affords labourers, who are employed by the proprietors in improving their farms. The common hire is 6d. a day. In harveſt, men and women earn 6d. and, in ſome places, their maintenance. Common menſervants are hired at 3l. a year, women at 1l. 10s. Several young people of both ſexes, and ſome married men, go to the ſouth country to earn harveſt wages, and return the beginning of winter.

ly cattle whoſe numbers can be aſcertained with the greateſt preciſion. The tenants (of whom there are 120) keep, at an average, 4 horſes each. Some of the cottagers have from 1 to 3 horſes. Hence they may be eſtimated at 600. They are ſmall, but hardy, and are reared by the weſtern Highlanders, and ſold at our markets. The price, till lately, was from 3 l. to 4 l. Within the laſt two years, the ſouth country drovers have raiſed the price from 15 s. to 20 s. a head. The average value may be computed at 3 l. It will not be far wide of the truth to eſtimate the number of black cattle at 10 head each tenant, including his oxen; and each mailer at 1, which will amount to 1448, worth 40 s. each at an average. Both horſes and black cattle are ſent to graze in the weſtern hills, from May to Michaelmas, at about 1 s. 6 d. *per* head. Of late, ſince ſheep-farming is become prevalent in the Highlands, the price of grazing low country cattle is raiſed to 2 s. Horſes are returned in July to bring home fuel. If the weather admit of that ſervice being ſoon performed, they are ſent back. The reſiding heritors keep about 40 draught horſes, worth 15 l. each, and 250 black cattle, worth 5 l. at an average, beſides riding horſes and wheel carriages.

Rivers and Fiſh.—The Beauly empties itſelf into the Frith of that name at the S. W. point of the pariſh, and cannot be ſaid to belong to it. The Connon interſects the pariſh near the north end, and is compoſed of four great branches *.

* There is a ſpring on the bank of the Connon, near the weſt end of the pariſh, ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur. The water is as clear as any other ſpring, but ſmells like the ſcourings of a foul gun. It is ſaid to partake of the nature of Harrowgate water, and to be uſeful in ſcorbutic complaints and rheumatiſm. It is of the ſame kind with the much frequented ſpring of Strathpeffer, in the neighbourhood.

The Orrin, running from the S. W. falls into the Connon at Urray, and interſects the pariſh from ſouth to north. About two miles weſt from Urray, the Garve falls in on the north ſide, which running from W. N. W. riſes on the confines of Lochbroom. Thence 5 miles farther weſt is the junction of the other two branches, the Meig and the Lichart. The former riſes on the borders of Lochcarron to the W. S. W.; and the ſource of the latter is on the confines of Gairloch to the weſt.—The Connon abounds in ſalmon and pike. It has few trouts, except ſea-trout in the months of July and Auguſt. A Company from Berwick farms the ſalmon fiſhing, along with ſeveral other fiſhings in the neighbourhood. During the ſpring months, and beginning of ſummer, they ſend conſiderable quantities of kitted ſalmon to the London market; but are kind enough, (though againſt their own intereſt), to indulge the neighbouring families with a competency for their tables at 2 d. a pound. But the body of the people are more indebted for their ſupport, to the ſhoals of herrings, which, for the moſt part, appear annually in the Frith of Beauly, at the ferry of Keſſock. They viſit us in the beginning of harveſt, and ſometimes continue till February. They are ſmaller and leaner than thoſe caught on the weſt coaſt, and therefore unfit for the foreign market. From 14 to 22 ſcore were ſold for 6 d. in the year 1791. They ſerve the adjacent parts of the counties of Roſs, Inverneſs, Nairn, and Moray. People from the braes of Banff, Aberdeen, and Perth ſhires, come to purchaſe them. It is ſaid, that, in the beginning of the fiſhing, their entrails have produced oil equal in value to the prime coſt.

Fuel, Roads, and Bridges.—Moſt of the eſtates have moſſes on the adjacent hills, yet the proprietors, in general, uſe coals along with peats in their own houſes. Except on one eſtate,

eſtate, the moſſes are at ſuch a diſtance, that only two draughts can be got home in a ſummer's day. The roads are ſteep. No part of a farmer's work exhauſts his horſes ſo much as the leading of his peats, and that at the time his horſes ought to be at graſs. Were that impolitic and oppreſſive duty at the Red-head taken off, it were cheaper for the pooreſt tenant in this pariſh to burn coals, than to wear out his horſes leading peats. The poorer part of the cottagers muſt therefore ſatisfy themſelves with ſandy clods picked from the adjacent moors with the breaſt ſpade.—The great north road * leading to Sutherland and Caithneſs paſſes through this pariſh, and is kept in excellent repair. The county road, leading to the weſt Highlands, was made about 30 years ago, and is kept in tolerable repair as far as the pariſh extends. A road begins in this diſtrict leading to Fortroſe, and another to Cromarty, both eaſtward, beſides croſs roads. The whole were made, and are kept in repair by the ſtatute labour. The gentlemen of the county, availing themſelves of the plenty of hands, are attentive to this branch of police.—There are two bridges; one of ſtone over a branch of the Orrin; another over the Orrin itſelf, of timber; both built at the expence of the county.

Manufactures.

* There are ſome ſtones ſtanding on end, about 5 feet above the ground near Beauly, on the ſide of the great north road. Several cairns or barrows have been lately opened, where human bones were found; and the remains of offenſive armour made of copper, which the gentleman who found them ſent to the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh. In a barrow opened at Brahan Caſtle, an urn was found containing ſmall pieces of bones, but was unluckily broken by the inattention of the labourers. It was made of burnt clay, and beautifully varniſhed over both within and without. The tower of Fairburn reminds one of that barbarous period, when every great man found it neceſſary to live in a fortreſs.

Manufactures.—Small ſpots of lint are to be ſeen on every farm. Moſt of the inhabitants rear ſheep, for their wool. They manufacture both the wool and the lint for their own uſe, or for home ſale; but neither in ſufficient quantity for their own conſumpt. A great deal of Engliſh cloth is every Sunday ſeen at church. The only article in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, that can be called a manufacture, is diſtilling of aquavitae. There are 9 licenced ſtills in the pariſh, at 30 gallons each. Highlanders from Lochaber, the extenſive weſt coaſt of Roſs-ſhire, and the Iſle of Sky, buy the ſpirits at between 10 s. and 14 s. *per* Scotch gallon. One man only in the pariſh occupies a ſtill without partners. From 5 to 10 or 12 tenants join about one of theſe ſtills, by which means each has an opportunity of manufacturing his own growth of barley; and where that falls ſhort of making up his proportion, he buys from his neighbours. The whole barley in the pariſh is diſtilled. Though no ſeed is left for the enſuing ſeaſon, yet the whole growth is not equal to the quantity manufactured into ſpirits by 9 ſtills. They ſay, that no barley anſwers ſo well as the growth of the pariſh, which they attribute to the warmth and dryneſs of the ſoil. The barley crop is generally allotted for paying the rents. The principal or only profit reſulting from the diſtillery is keeping up the price of grain, and converting it ſpeedily into money. The profits otherwiſe are next to nothing, except the draff or grains. The only other reſource they have is from black cattle; but graſs being ſcanty, the increaſe of cattle ſeems hardly ſufficient to ſupply the waſte of horſes, few of which are reared in the pariſh.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was built about 12 years ago. It coſt 900 l. Sterling, and was then the moſt elegant and ſubſtantial building of the kind in the county.

Since

Since that period, ſome neighbouring pariſhes affirm they have equalled it at leſs expence. The manſe was built about 42 years ago, and was then the beſt in the ſynod. Several others have now outſtripped it in elegance and convenience. Captain Kenneth M'Kenzie of Cromarty, repreſentative of the Earls of that name, is patron. This, with ſeveral other patronages, was forfeited in 1747, but reſtored, along with the eſtate, to the late Lord Macleod, ſon to the laſt Earl.—The amount of the ſtipend depends on the price of victual. It conſiſts of 10 chalders of barley. This, together with the glebe, may be eſtimated at 140 l. The decreet of modification and locality is dated in 1719.—A clergyman of the Epiſcopal Church of Scotland reſides in this pariſh. About a fourth part of the people attend his meeting. He has two other places of worſhip in the neighbouring pariſhes. When he is abſent, his ordinary hearers attend the pariſh church as punctually as the other pariſhioners. There are no diſſenters of any other denomination.—A parochial ſchool is eſtabliſhed, and well attended. The Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge ſupport a charity ſchool and ſpinning miſtreſs, both of which are uſeful.—The poor's roll contains 62. There are no funds in the pariſh for their ſupport, except the weekly collection, and another more general collection made on the firſt Sunday of every quarter, when every individual is ſuppoſed to contribute his mite. The whole amounts to about 10 l. Sterling, and is diſtributed by the ſeſſion.

Population.—From a roll made up in 1791, there are in the pariſh 1860 perſons, of whom 420 are under 10 years of age. The average of births for the laſt 3 years, while the preſent incumbent has officiated, is 40. Of theſe the Epiſcopal clergyman baptiſed 10. The average of marriages is 11. There is no regiſter of burials kept in the pariſh. The great

great body of the people is divided into two claſſes, tenants and cottagers; or, as the latter are called here, *mailers*. The former amount to 120, who rent from 5 l. to 20 l. a year. Not above two or three pay 30 l. The mailers are thoſe poor people who build huts on barren ground, and improve ſpots around them, for which they pay nothing for a ſtipulated number of years. The proprietor frequently indulges them with tools and ſeed for the firſt ſeaſon. After the firſt period is expired, theſe crofts are rented at from 3 s. to 40 s. a year. Every year produces one or more of theſe new ſettlers. At preſent they conſiſt of 248 families, of whom 148 have ſettled within the laſt 40 years. From this increaſe of the cottagers, and the great quantity of improved ground, an increaſe of the population has undoubtedly taken place within theſe 20 or 30 years; although there appears to be a decreaſe upon the whole ſince 1755, the return made to Dr Webſter at that period having been 2456. This decreaſe can only be accounted for, by the annual emigrations to the ſouth country in harveſt, and by the great numbers enliſted into the Highland regiments, at the commencement of the two laſt wars.—The new ſettlers are not all natives of the pariſh. Severals come down from the Hebrides, from the weſt coaſt, and mid Highlands, when a ſevere ſeaſon has deſtroyed their cattle. This is the reaſon, why the number below 10 years of age is ſo high in proportion to the births. All the tradeſmen in the pariſh are included among the mailers. They conſiſt of 20 weavers, 1 houſe-carpenter, 3 millers, 15 taylors, 2 maſons, 21 *brogue* or ſhoemakers. All of them work for the pariſhioners and immediate neighbourhood. No article is manufactured for exportation. There are alſo included in the above number 82 widows, 40 of whom are on the poor's roll. But, though theſe laſt have ſeparate huts, they are not included in the above number of families. One

excile

excise officer resides in the parish, but no physician, surgeon *, or man of the law.—There are no instances of uncommon longevity. There are many vigorous men of 70, and a very few turned of 80, but none who have reached 90.

Heritors and Rent.—There are 11 proprietors in the parish, of whom 3 have their seats in other parishes, and 8 in this. Of these last, 4 only reside constantly, and 4 occasionally. Brahan Castle is in this parish, the principal residence of Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth.—The valued rent is 2574 l. 8 s. Scotch. The real rent approaches to 2000 l. Sterling. Few of the estates have been measured. From a gross computation from the quantity of seed sown, the average rent will be about 10 s. an acre. The greater part of the rent is reckoned in barley and oat-meal. Few, however, choose to pay in kind. Hence the rent varies as the price of victual rises or falls. Some proprietors, of late, have passed from payment in kind for a fixed rent in money. The proprietors who live in the parish occupy land of the annual value of 500 l. Sterling. Their families, including servants and labourers, do not exceed 80 persons. Hence there are about 1800 persons to be maintained on the produce of 1500 l.'s worth of land, besides paying that sum as rent.

Disadvantages

* There being no villages, and few mechanics who follow sedentary employments, the people work in the open air, and are, in general, lively and healthy; except when infectious distempers occur, as happened in the year 1789, when a putrid fever was introduced into a poor family; whence, as from a centre, it spread through this and the neighbouring parishes, thence to the west coast, and at last to the Hebrides, marking its progress with dreadful havoc. The gentry inoculate their children for the small-pox with success, but the great body of the people have not surmounted their religious prejudices against that innovation. The gout and gravel are not known. Rheumatisms are frequent, for which they apply strong spirits to the part affected.

Diſadvantages and Propoſed Improvements.—This pariſh is too narrow a field for induſtry in its preſent ſituation. Hence the people are idle for a conſiderable part of the year, eſpecially in winter. The proprietors are ſenſible of the various diſadvantages ariſing from this ſource, and that the eſtabliſhment of a manufacture would be the only remedy. But no perſon has as yet been hardy enough to engage in ſuch an enterpriſe. It is, indeed, an object only for a Company, endowed with the ſpirit of adventure, who would lay their account with loſs for ſome time, till the people had learned the buſineſs, and become ſenſible of its benefit. But, if local ſituation, and numbers of hands, would induce ſuch a Company to eſtabliſh a manufacture, perhaps there is no ſtation in Scotland more inviting for a ſettlement of that kind. There are 9 or 10 pariſhes, among which this occupies a central poſition round the heads of the Friths of Dingwall and Beauly, within ſight of each other, containing, at a moderate computation, 15,000 inhabitants, with a well peopled country for upwards of 20 miles eaſtward, towards Cromarty and Tain. The borough of Dingwall, and village of Beauly, at the head of their reſpective friths, are at the diſtance of 9 miles only from each other, either of which, or both, would be convenient ſtations. The communication is eaſy, and the roads good in every direction. The rich corn country of Moray and Eaſt Roſs are within a few hours ſailing by either Frith. Were ſuch a manufacture eſtabliſhed, numbers of poor people from the Highlands and Weſtern Iſles would flock to it, rather than attempt croſſing the Atlantic. This is not a matter of conjecture or mere probability. There is a daily intercourſe between this country and the weſt coaſt. Severals from that quarter come down annually to ſettle on the waſte grounds. They feel themſelves within reach of their relations and the ſepulchres of their fathers. But they would

would come much more readily, if to theſe conſiderations were added the proſpect of living more comfortably by their induſtry. The only local obſtacle to an eſtabliſhment of this kind, is the ſcarcity of fuel. Here one cannot help again execrating the partial (and it may even be added, *iniquitous*) tax on coals imported to the north; which operates as a dead weight on every attempt towards improvement. It is hoped, however, that this grievance will be ſoon alleviated, by the extenſive plantations of firs laid out within theſe laſt 30 years, and every year enlarged.—It has been already obſerved, that the mode of farming amongſt the common people is far from being improved; and it may be farther remarked, that there ſeem to be local obſtacles to improvement, which manufactures only can remove, by introducing riches. The tenants alledge, that they cannot afford the expence of incloſing their lands, or of paying intereſt for incloſing them; and, even if they were incloſed, they ſay, they cannot lie out of their ordinary crops ſo long as would be neceſſary to put their farms in the modern rotation.—Again, foreign manure cannot be had for improvement, at ſuch a price as the tenant can afford. Gentlemen who uſe lime for building, and manure, find it cheaper to bring it from Sunderland, than from any part of Scotland; yet it coſts them from 10d. to 1s. *per* boll, at the ſhip's ſide. Neither is there any marl within reach.—*Thirlage* * is alſo complained of as a bar to improvement.

* THIRLAGE is an obligation over the poſſeſſors of lands, to manufacture all their corns at a certain mill; and ſeems to have originated with the great barons, with a view of exacting, for their own uſe, a ſtipulated portion of the produce of the ſoil, whether it was poſſeſſed by their own immediate tenants, or given away in feu to their vaſſals. The exaction is called *multure*, and is a real rent, reſerved to himſelf by the ſuperior. This rent, on ſome eſtates, amounts to the 12th, on others to the 16th, 20th, or 24th part of the unground corn; beſides

ment. When eſtates are thirled to the mill of another heritor, the proprietors of the thirled eſtates growl at another man's reaping a certain part of the produce of their improvements, without contributing to the expence. One mill only of this deſcription is in this pariſh. There are two others, belonging to two different heritors, to which their own eſtates only are thirled. It ſeems to be a general wiſh, that an equivalent were projected, under the eye of the legiſlature, for aboliſhing this ſpecies of vaſſalage.

Character.—A ſenſe of religion and decency prevails among the people in general. One man only, within the memory of tradition, was convicted of a capital crime, and ſuffered for it about 50 years ago. No doubt, ſuch a number engaged in diſtilling ſpirits, has a tendency to corrupt the morals; but the bad effects of this trade are leſs diſcernible than might be feared. Were the effects worſe than they are, there is a fatal neceſſity of continuing the diſtillery, until ſome other manufacture be eſtabliſhed in its ſtead, whereby the people will be enabled to find money to pay their rents. The worſt effect of the great plenty of ſpirits is, that dram ſhops are ſet up almoſt in every village for retail, where young and idle people

about the 48th part of the meal after grinding. Mills and multures have been conveyed like other property. The conveyance includes *grana creſcentia*; ſometimes are included *invecta et illata*, and whatever *tholes* fire and water on the eſtate. *Uſe and wont* is alſo ſaid to conſtitute a right, without any written document.

The miller's dues, or the wages for labour, are a ſeparate article, conſiſting of a certain quantity of meal inſtantly paid out of every boll, (as formerly meaſured in aſcertaining the multure), both to the head miller and his ſubſtitute. For this payment, the millers not only grind the corn, but ſupport the machinery. Often the head miller pays a rent to his landlord for his place. The multure and miller's dues are ſo heavy, that, on ſome eſtates, they amount nearly to the value of the land rent.

people convene and get drunk. Theſe tipling huts are kept by ſuch only as are not able to pay a fine, or procure a licence. They are the greateſt nuiſance in the pariſh. It is a pity that no effectual mode has as yet been projected for ſuppreſſing them.

Language.—Gaelic is the vernacular language of the whole pariſh, except in gentlemen's families. Several of the inhabitants read the Engliſh Bible, and can tranſact buſineſs in that language; but they, as well as the bulk of the people, prefer religious inſtruction in Gaelic; and therefore are at pains to read the Gaelic New Teſtament, and Pſalm Book, &c. The names of the places are uniformly Gaelic, expreſſive of their ſituation, or of ſome circumſtance which ſtruck the fancy of the original inhabitants. Some names of places recall to view the family economy of the great Barons, while the feudal government ſubſiſted in its full vigour. The wages of their menial ſervants and tradeſmen ſeem to have been paid in land. Hence we find the *Smith's Croft*, the *Arrow-maker's*, the *Bow-maker's*, the *Waulker's*, the *Cook's*, the *Baker's*, the *Piper's*, the *Fiddler's Croft*, &c. Of theſe there are, in this pariſh, *Belnagown*, the town of the ſmiths; *Teanafile*, the reſidence of the fiddle; and *Cruitach*, the field of the harp, or harper's field. All the above names, and more from the ſame origin, are to be found near ancient ſeats.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF RATHO.

(County of Mid-Lothian.—Preſbytery of Edinburgh.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES ROBERTSON.

Situation, Extent, Surface, &c.

BEFORE the Reformation, Ratho was a parſonage, under the provoſtry of Corſtorphine; and, as every pariſh, in times of Popery, had a tutelar ſaint, that of Ratho had been dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This appears, not only from tradition, but from this farther circumſtance, that the conſecrated well near the church, a copious ſtream of very pure water, ſtill bears the name of the *Lady's Well.*

The pariſh is a little more than 4 miles long and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad. A narrow irregular corner, which runs very far to the ſouth-weſt, and in which there are few inhabitants, if taken into the computation, would extend the length of the pariſh above a mile farther. The eaſt part of it is a fine flat country, lying exactly in the middle between the Pentland Hills and the Frith of Forth, and reaching within 5 miles of the capital. The weſtern part contains ſeveral ſmall hills, all covered with green, but very rocky. Thoſe towards the north are all whin-ſtone; but the hills of Dalmahoy and Kaims, on the ſouth ſide, abound much in free-ſtone.

Soil and Culture.—The ſoil of the land is generally a light loam, with a conſiderable mixture of ſand in many places. In ſome parts, particularly towards the eaſt, it is of a ſtronger quality, and tends to clay, a ſoil in which wheat and beans are produced to great advantage. The huſbandry of this pariſh has been, for ſeveral years paſt, in a progreſſive ſtate of improvement. Conſiderable quantities of manure, brought regularly from Edinburgh, and abundance of lime in the near neighbourhood, have contributed much to produce this happy effect. Several gentlemen in the pariſh farm on a large ſcale, and with great ſpirit and ſucceſs. Their general practice is, to ſummer fallow a large field, to manure it richly, and ſow it with wheat, by which they have of product generally from 9 to 12 bolls on the acre. Their ſubſequent crop is commonly beans and peaſe; after which they take a crop of barley or oats, with which they ſow graſs ſeeds; they then take one or two crops of hay, and afterwards keep it ſome years in paſture. By this rotation, they preſerve their ground in excellent order. The following is given, as one inſtance out of many, of the fertility of theſe lands. Mr Kirkland, two years ago, ſummer fallowed and manured a field of 16 acres; it produced, of good grain, 14 bolls *per* acre. The price of wheat was ſo high that year, as to ſell from 26 s. to 28 s. *per* boll; ſo that, from his wheat and the ſtraw, he realized 20 l. Sterling *per* acre, i. e. 320 l. on the 16 acres. This fact may be depended upon, as the writer hereof had it from himſelf. Other inſtances of great improvement in huſbandry, and correſponding produce, might be mentioned; but this is by no means the general condition of the pariſh. Many of the ſmaller tenants continue in the old tract, and thereby retard the progreſs of improvement.

Climate,

Climate, Longevity, &c.—As there is but a ſmall proportion of marſhy ground, the climate is thought, upon the whole, ſalutary, and ſome parts of it, namely the villages of Norton and Bonington, both on elevated ſituations, and built on rock, have been reputed to be particularly conducive to longevity. The incumbent has known many inſtances, in the courſe of his miniſtry, of perſons above 90 years old, though few now in life have arrived at ſo advanced a period. One inſtance, however, of uncommon longevity, deſerves particlar attention. William Ritchie, now living in Long Dalmahoy, formerly a tenant to the Earl of Morton, and now ſupported by his Lordſhip's bounty, is believed to be at leaſt 105 years old. His birth is not to be found in any pariſh record, but may be aſcertained from this circumſtance: His brother, Adam Ritchie, cowfeeder in Fountainbridge, was only three years older than William; Adam died above three years ago, aged 106. His age was properly authenticated, and publiſhed at the time in the newſpapers. This very old man has been twice married, and has had 22 children, alternately ſons and daughters. His youngeſt ſon is at preſent about 10 years old. The incumbent has baptized at leaſt two children to him ſince he was 90 years of age, and his wife has the character of being a very honeſt woman.

Proprietors and Rent.—This pariſh is very reſpectable in point of heritors. They are eight in number, and, though not always reſident, have moſtly their principal ſeats here. The eſtate of Hatton, by far the moſt conſiderable, being nearly equal, in value and extent, to half the pariſh, was formerly the property of the Earl of Lauderdale, and long in the poſſeſſion of that noble family. This great eſtate was ſold laſt ſummer, by the preſent Earl, along with the

patronage,

patronage, to Miſs Scott of Scotſtarvet, for 84,000 l.*.—The Earl of Morton has his principal ſeat at Dalmahoy, about a mile eaſt from Hatton, The pleaſure ground of this place is more modern, being formed within theſe 50 years, by James Earl of Morton, P. R. S. and grandfather to the preſent Earl. Dalmahoy houſe is finely ſituated in the middle of a great park, containing between 400 and 500 acres, incloſed by one of the beſt built walls in Scotland, and ſubdivided into commodious incloſures, by ſunk fences and belts of plantation, forming, altogether, a very beautiful and extenſive ſcene. —The other heritors are, Thomas M'Knight, Eſq; of Ratho, who purchaſed that eſtate about 5 years ago, and has already diſtinguiſhed himſelf exceedingly, by the uncommon ſpirit with which he conducts his improvements, and whereby he is greatly increaſing the value of his property; Robert Liſton, Eſq; of Damhead, at preſent ambaſſador from the court of Britain to that of Stockholm, and juſtly diſtinguiſhed for his abilities in the diplomatic line;—William Cunningham, Eſq; of Bonington:—Meſſrs Alexander Reid of Rathobyres, and his brother, Cumberland Reid of Gogarbank; and James Wilkie portioner of Rathobyres. A ſmall proportion of the land lets as high as two guineas *per* acre; but theſe are principally the grounds round the village. The rent of the pariſh, at a medium, may be reckoned from 22 s. to 25 s. *per* acre. The real rent of the whole pariſh amounts very nearly to 5000 l. Sterling; the valued rent is exactly 6250 l. 13 s. 8 d. Scotch.

Proſpects, Pleaſure Grounds, &c.—Perhaps no pariſh in this country affords more varied and delightful proſpects than that

* An eſtate, equal in extent, value, ſituation, and many other advantages, is rarely to be found. The principal ſeat at Hatton is a venerable old houſe, with extenſive gardens, and ſurrounded with large plantations and incloſures, of at leaſt 800 acres of ground.

that of Ratho; almoſt from every part of it, the capital, with its extenſive environs and ſurrounding hills, are in full view. From the ſmall eminences in the weſt end of the pariſh, theſe views appear to the greateſt advantage. One of theſe demands particular attention. From the top of the ſouth Platt Hill, immediately above the manſe *, can be pointed out 14 different counties full in view. Some aſſert, that parts of 16 counties, making one half of Scotland, may be ſeen from that ſpot. This proſpect gives a full view of the Forth, from the iſland of May towards Stirling; the coaſts of Fife, Kinroſs, and Clackmannan; the hills in the ſhires of Perth, Stirling, and Dunbarton, as far as Ben-Lomond; the three Lothians, Berwickſhire, &c.—The great road from Edinburgh to Glaſgow runs nearly through the middle of the pariſh, and alongſt it from Addiſton Bridge to Bonington, for more than two miles, there is one uninterrupted ſcene of the moſt beautiful and valuable plantation any where to be ſeen. It comprehends the extenſive pleaſure grounds of Addiſton, Ratho, Dalmahoy, Hatton, and Bonington.

Church and School.—The church is ſituated exactly 7 miles weſt from Edinburgh. It is very old; but when it was founded is uncertain. The ſtipend conſiſts of 5 chalders of victual, 58 l. 8 s. 6 d. Sterling in money, which, at the county converſion of 10 s. 5 d. *per* boll, makes the ſtipend equal to 100 l. Sterling. But, from the uſual difference between the county converſion and the ſelling prices, it is equal to 120 l. *communibus*

* There are the remains of two encampments, both probably Daniſh; the one on Kaimes Hill, in the ſouth-weſt corner of the pariſh, the other on the South Platt Hill, immediately above the manſe; but the laſt, within theſe few years, has been, in a great meaſure, deſtroyed, by blowing and carrying off the ſtones for building dikes and other purpoſes.

nibus annis. The glebe conſiſts of near 9 acres, whereof 5 is meadow ground, of no great value; but the whole, with the manſe and garden, may be reckoned equal to 20 l. a year.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary, about 25 years ago, was only 8 l. 3 s. Sterling. Upon an application to the heritors, they augmented it to 13 l. 3 s. About 10 years ago, the ſchoolmaſter being rendered unfit, by age, for the duties of his office, moſt of the heritors voluntarily agreed to double the ſalary, and raiſed it to about 24 l. of which 10 l. with a free houſe, was alloted to the old ſchoolmaſter for life, and 14 l. eſtabliſhed as a ſalary for an efficient teacher, the choice of whom was left to the miniſter. Ever ſince there has been at Ratho a numerous and thriving ſchool; and within theſe two years, the heritors have expended above 150 l. Sterling in enlarging the ſchoolmaſter's houſe and rebuilding the ſchool; which is finiſhed and furniſhed in ſo complete a manner, that it may be conſidered as a model for other parts of the country, there being few ſuch in Scotland.

Poor.—In the year 1760, the pariſh had no money at intereſt, and not above 10 l. of ſtock in the treaſurer's hand for exigencies. There have been, almoſt ever ſince, however, about 40 indigent perſons, at an average, regularly ſupplied, to the extent of near 70 l. Sterling annually, which ſum has been produced altogether from weekly collections at the church doors. This may appear incredible in ſo ſmall a pariſh; but one circumſtance, which deſerves to be recorded, to the honour of the late noble patron, will explain it. The late Earl of Lauderdale, who was remarkable, in his rank, for religious decency, and for his regular attendance on public ordinances, gave, every Sabbath, a guinea of collection, and ſtill more liberal donations on ſacramental occaſions; ſo that, in the way of weekly collection, in little more than 30 years, he gave at

leaſt 1500 l. Sterling to the ſupport of the poor, beſides other extenſive charities in the pariſh. In this manner have the poor here been more regularly and amply ſupplied than in moſt other pariſhes, till within theſe 3 years, when we were obliged to have recourſe to parochial aſſeſſments, and only 75 l. have hitherto been demanded in that way. The poor have, of monthly penſion, from 2 s. 6 d. to 6 s. according to their various exigencies. In the year 1782, there was a voluntary contribution, to the amount of near 50 l. which, with their ordinary penſions, ſupported them in a pretty comfortable way during that very hard year.

Population.—With reſpect to the number of people, there has been a conſiderable decreaſe * ſince the commencement of the preſent incumbent's miniſtry. In the year 1760, the number was about 1145. At that time, indeed, there were many

* There is no record kept of burials, but the following table of births and marriages, extracted from the minutes of ſeſſion, by the clerk, will ſhew that the population has not varied much theſe laſt 10 years.

Marriages, *From 1ſt Jan. 1782, to 1ſt Jan. 1792.*		Births, *During the ſame period.* *Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
1782	4	10	16	26
1783	8	14	16	30
1784	5	9	12	21
1785	6	10	16	26
1786	9	11	7	18
1787	7	14	11	25
1788	5	11	10	21
1789	8	11	15	26
1790	10	9	12	21
1791	3	8	15	23
Total,	65	107	130	237
Average	$6\frac{1}{2}$ *per ann.*	$10\frac{7}{10}$	13	$23\frac{7}{10}$

many people employed carrying on improvements at Dalmahoy and other places. They ſoon began to decreaſe, and at preſent do not exceed 825 ſouls. So great a diminution, in a pariſh ſo near the capital, in the ſpace of little more than 30 years, may ſeem ſurpriſing; but the cauſe has ariſen principally from letting the lands in large farms, and turning much of them into paſture grounds, whereby ſome villages have been entirely depopulated, and others conſiderably reduced in numbers. If it be a good maxim, that the riches of a country conſiſt chiefly in the number of its inhabitants, the policy of the proprietors has not been directed, in this reſpect, to the beſt intereſts of the pariſh. One circumſtance, indeed, that obſtructs the increaſe of population in this diſtrict, is, the great diſtance from coals, the pariſh being, in this reſpect, the moſt unhappily ſituated of any in the three Lothians. It is equally diſtant from the eaſt and weſt hills, being between 10 and 12 miles diſtant from both; and many bring them from Bonharr, which is 17 miles diſtant, on account of the goodneſs of the roads. This circumſtance muſt prove an inſurmountable obſtacle to the eſtabliſhment of manufactures, and conſequently to the population of this pariſh; which, however, upon the whole, has only decreaſed 105 within theſe 37 years; the number returned to Dr Webſter, in the year 1755, being 930.

Eminent Men.—The immediate predeceſſor of the preſent incumbent, was Dr William Wilkie, who, in 1760, was tranſlated to the profeſſorſhip of natural philoſophy in the univerſity of St. Andrew's. This gentleman, along with many peculiarities of character, poſſeſſed much valuable knowledge, and, in point of extent and originality of genius, had perhaps no ſuperior in his time. He was author of the Epigoniad, an epic poem of great merit, and which, as a monu-

ment of his poetical abilities, will long do honour to his memory. He wrote also a volume of fables, which he dedicated to his noble patron, the Earl of Lauderdale. It is perhaps to be regretted, that many valuable manuscripts of his, both scientific and miscellaneous, have never been published. He died about 18 years ago.

NUM.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF NEW OR EAST MONKLAND.

(County of Lanark.—Preſbytery of Hamilton.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.)

By Mr WILLIAM MACK, *Writer in Edinburgh.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE pariſhes of Old and New Monkland, were formerly united, under the general name of Monkland, from the Monks of Newbottle, to whom they originally belonged. But part of it being erected into a ſeparate pariſh, about the year 1640, it was called *New* Monkland, and the other diſtrict Old Monkland, for diſtinction's ſake. In moſt writings, however, the former is called *Eaſt* Monkland, from its being ſituated to the eaſt of Old Monkland.—Eaſt Monkland is ſituated in that diſtrict or ſubdiviſion of Lanarkſhire, called the Middle Ward, and is the moſt northerly pariſh in the county. It is about 10 miles in length, from eaſt to weſt, and 7 in breadth about the middle, but narrower at both ends.

Surface, Soil, Agriculture, Produce, &c.—There is neither hill nor mountain in the whole diſtrict, although the greater part of it lies conſiderably above the level of the ſea. The higheſt lands are in the middle of the pariſh, and run the whole length of it, from eaſt to weſt, declining gently on each ſide to the rivers Calder and Luggie, which are its ſouthern

ſouthern and northern boundaries. The whole is a beautiful champaign country, agreeably diverſified by vales and gentle riſings. The eaſtern part of the pariſh is rather encumbered with moſs.—The ſoil is various. The north and weſt parts of the pariſh are the beſt, conſiſting, generally, of a ſtrong clay ſoil, and, when properly cultivated, yield good crops. The middle and eaſt parts are of a moſſy ſoil, and, in early ſeaſons, yield good crops of oats and potatoes; but, in cold late ſeaſons, ſeldom ripen well. Wheat, barley, peaſe, beans, oats, flax, clover, and rye-graſs, are ſown annually; but oats are the moſt general crop. Great quantities of flax are raiſed for ſale, ſome years to the extent of above 100 acres. The flax is generally ſown the ſecond year after the lands are broken up from paſture, after a crop of oats or peaſe. An acre of ground let for flax, brings 5 l. or 6 l. Sterling of rent for that year. There are 114 ploughgates of land in the pariſh. The ploughgates differ greatly with regard to extent; but, on an average, may contain from 70 to 80 acres of arable land, beſides paſture and moſs, of which laſt there are ſome thouſands of acres in the middle and eaſtern parts of the pariſh. The eſtates of Airdrie, Rothſolloch, Monkland, and Rochſoles, are greatly improved, well incloſed, and finely ſheltered with large plantations of foreſt trees, which thrive well. The pariſh, in general, is incloſed with ditches and hedges of white thorn; but many of the hedges are bad, partly owing to want of care, and partly to the moſſy ſoil of the higher grounds, where it is found, that thorns never thrive, and ſeldom live above 20 years. The beſt improved lands are occupied in paſture, and let yearly to graziers, for fattening ſheep and black cattle. By this method, the lands are not only improved, but alſo bring more rent, than by letting them on leaſes. Manures of all kinds are rather expenſive.

penſive. Lime * is the moſt general one. Ploughs of different kinds are uſed, but chiefly the Scotch plough, of a light conſtruction, which is moſt commonly drawn by 2, ſometimes 3 horſes, it being now rare to ſee 4 horſes yoked in one plough. From the high prices given for cattle, butter, and cheeſe, the farmers have of late turned their attention chiefly to the rearing young cows and horſes, and improving the breed, in which they have made great progreſs. They now rear as fine draught horſes and milk cows as any in Scotland. There are about 200 milk cows kept in the town of Airdrie, which not only ſupply the inhabitants with milk, but have greatly improved the neighbouring fields by their dung. Potatoes † are now become a general crop, and are uſed both for family uſe and feeding cattle. Turnip and cabbage huſbandry are little practiſed, though the few trials made, have ſucceeded well. The management of the dairy is well underſtood, and carefully attended to. Cheeſe, equal to Stilton, (perhaps not inferior to Parmeſan), is made by ſome families; but this ſuperior kind is moſtly made for private

* It is got from the lime-works in Cumbernauld pariſh; but the long carriage makes it very expenſive. This, however, will be in ſome degree remedied, when the Monkland navigation is finiſhed, (which it is expected to be in the courſe of next year), as lime will then be brought by water carriage. The moſt approved method of uſing lime, is to lay it on the ſurface ſome years before breaking up. This makes the paſture more valuable, and never fails to produce plentiful crops. A conſiderable quantity of dung is got at Airdrie, which ſells as high as 20 d. and 2 s. the ſingle cart-load.

† They anſwer the purpoſe well; but there is a prejudice againſt the culture of them, that they weaken and impoveriſh the land, although the very reverſe is the fact, as it has been found, by every judicious inquirer, that potatoes, next to peaſe and turnips, are the moſt enriching crop that can be put on any ſoil. A diſeaſe in this valuable root has lately made its appearance, commonly called the *curled leaf;* but this diſeaſe chiefly affects potatoes planted in wet or low grounds.

vate uſe. From the vicinity of Glaſgow, which is only 16 miles diſtant, every article the farmer can ſpare, finds a ready market and a high price.

Heritors and Rent.—There are above 100 heritors in the pariſh, beſides the feuers of Airdrie after mentioned; and as the lands in general are farmed by the proprietors themſelves, they are better cultivated than could be expected, if they were farmed by tenants on ſhort leaſes. The principal heritors are Miſſes Iſobel, Bethia, and Margaret Aitchiſon, of Rochſolloch and Airdrie, Andrew Stirling of Drumpellier, John Henry Cochrane of Rochſoles, James Dunlop of Garnkirk, Andrew Buchanan of Ardinconnal, William Hamilton of Wiſhaw, and John Niſbet of Cairnhill, Eſquires, none of whom reſide in the pariſh, but the Miſs Aitchiſons, and occaſionally, Mr Cochrane.—The valued rent is 6822 l. 6s. 8 d. Scotch. The real rent cannot be aſcertained, as the greater part of the lands are poſſeſſed by the proprietors; but if the whole were rented, the lands might yield between 5000 l. and 6000 l. Sterling, and the houſes in the town of Airdrie about 1000 l.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The church was rebuilt in the year 1777. It is a very handſome country church, and contains 1200 people. The manſe was built about 50 years ago, and lately got a complete reparation, with a new ſet of offices. The church, with the repairs of the manſe, new ſchool-houſe, and church-yard dike, coſt near 1000 l. The heritors are patrons. The ſtipend is 8 chalders of oatmeal, or 128 bolls, and is paid by the College of Glaſgow, who are titulars of the teinds, according to the ſiars of the commiſſariot of Hamilton and Campſie. The miniſter is alſo allowed half a chalder of meal for communion elements. The glebe, manſe, and

and garden, are worth about 15 l. yearly. When oat-meal ſells at 1 s. the peck, which is about the average price, the whole living is about 120 l. yearly. The ſtipend has never been augmented *. A very handſome chapel of eaſe was built laſt year for the accommodation of the town of Airdrie, by a voluntary ſubſcription, and a meeting-houſe, for the people of the Burgher Aſſociation, was lately alſo built at Airdrie, although there are very few diſſenters in the pariſh. Their congregation is therefore collected from neighbouring pariſhes.

Schools and Poor.—There is a public ſchool at the pariſh church. The ſalary is 5 l. 11 s. 1⅓ d. with a ſchool and dwelling-houſe, but no garden. This ſalary, being paid by more than 100 heritors, is ſcarcely worth collecting. The ſchoolmaſter is alſo precentor and ſeſſion clerk. The emoluments of theſe offices, though trifling, are better than the ſalary, but the whole is a ſhameful pittance in ſo wealthy a pariſh; and it is a diſgrace to the country, that ſo uſeful a body of men are, in Scotland, ſo poorly provided for in general, and calls loudly for redreſs. There are generally two ſchools in the town of Airdrie; but as they have neither ſchool-houſe nor ſalary, the teachers continue no longer than till a better place offers. If one penny upon the pound Scotch of valued rent, all over Scotland, were levied, along with the land-tax, and paid to the parochial ſchoolmaſters, in addition to their preſent trifling ſalaries, it might make their

* The Reverend Mr Patrick Maxwell is the preſent incumbent; he was ſettled in the year 1760, and is married, but has no children. To the great concern of the pariſhioners, he has, for ſome time paſt, been in a bad ſtate of health, which rendered him unfit to draw up the ſtatiſtical account of the pariſh, and induced the writer hereof to undertake the taſk.

living more decent, and their uſefulneſs more general. This could be levied without expence, and ſuch a trifle would never be miſſed by the proprietors.—The number of poor on the pariſh roll, are between 40 and 50. The ſum diſtributed among them, for ſome time paſt, is about 70 l. annually. The funds for ſupplying them do not exceed 100 l. the intereſt of which, with the collection at the church doors, mort-cloths or pall-dues, proclamations of the banns of marriage, and an extraordinary collection on the firſt Sabbath of June yearly, has hitherto raiſed a ſum equal to the yearly diſtribution. There are 4 different charitable ſocieties in the town of Airdrie, who have about 500 l. of ſtock, and are very uſeful in ſupporting poor members. Their funds are well managed, and increaſing yearly. If ſuch ſocieties were eſtabliſhed in every pariſh, and properly conducted, they would be very beneficial, particularly in times of dearth, by laying out their ſtock for the purchaſe of grain, and ſelling it to the poor at prime coſt, as was done here in the year 1783, upon the general failure of the preceding crop *.

Minerals and Mineral Springs.—Coal and iron-ſtone are, or may be found, almoſt in every farm. The Monkland coal has been long famed for the quality and richneſs of its ſeams. Twenty years ago, coal ſold ſo low as 6 d. the cart load; but ſince the Monkland navigation was opened, it ſells at 18 d. the

* There are few or no begging poor in the pariſh; but no place of the country is more peſtered with vagrants and gypſies, as there is neither work-houſe, jail, nor reſident magiſtrate in the pariſh. A ſet of reſpectable conſtables who underſtood, and could properly exerciſe, the ample powers committed to them, might be of great uſe, in cleaning the country of ſuch vagrants; but as this office is generally filled by the moſt ignorant and worthleſs, they are become a nuiſance inſtead of a benefit.

the cart, weighing 12 cwt. Excellent ſmithy coal, and blind coal for drying grain and malt, are found at Airdrie, and ſell at 2s. 6d. the cart. On account of its ſuperior quality, it is carried 20 miles and upwards round the country. Lime has been found in the north part of the pariſh, but is not wrought at preſent. There are plenty of free-ſtone quarries, and abundance of whin or moor-ſtones in every part of the pariſh. There are ſeveral mineral ſprings, chiefly of the chalybeate kind; but the one called Monkland Well, near Airdrie, is the moſt famous, and has long been uſed ſucceſsfully, in all ſcorbutic, ſcrophulous, and other cutaneous caſes, and in complaints of the ſtomach and eyes. About 40 years ago, it was frequented by the gay and faſhionable from all quarters; but now only by the poor and lame. But if the rich, who need a cure, knew the value of this water, they might find real advantage from it, at a ſmall expence, in compariſon of the Engliſh watering places, as every accommodation can be got in the neighbourhood at eaſy rates.

Roads, Bridges, &c.—The roads were in a moſt wretched ſtate, till the year 1772, when the county obtained an act of Parliament for commuting the ſtatute work for money. Since that period, the roads are greatly improved, and a bridge built over almoſt every rivulet. The preſent converſion is 15s. Sterling for each ploughgate of land, and 18d. for each houſeholder, which amounts to 100l. or thereby, annually. This fund is managed in the beſt manner, and as there are plenty of excellent materials, few pariſhes in Scotland have ſuch good roads. An act was obtained laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, for making a turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glaſgow, by Bathgate and Airdrie, the tract of which will run through this pariſh for many miles, and, when finiſhed, will

will be of the greateſt benefit to the country in general, and this pariſh in particular.

Population.—The village, or, as it is commonly called, the *town* of Airdrie *, is the only one in the pariſh, and ſtands near the ſouth-weſt extremity, on a beautiful riſing ground, between two ſmall rivulets, regularly built, with wide ſtreets, and extends near an Engliſh mile in length from eaſt to weſt. It had very few inhabitants at the beginning of the preſent century; but they are much increaſed ſince. In the year 1760, there were only 300 examinable perſons; in the year 1789 they amounted to 1100; and from an actual ſurvey, taken this preſent year, (1792), there are 1762 ſouls in the town and ſuburbs. The number of ſouls, in the landward part of the pariſh, is not exactly known; but in the year 1789, there were found to be 1300 perſons above 8 years of age, members of the church of Scotland, beſides diſſenters. Adding, therefore, theſe numbers together, with that of the children below 8 years of age, (who will amount to about 500 more), it is evident, that the population of the whole pariſh cannot be leſs than 3560, which is 847 more than it was 40 years ago, the return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, being only 2713.

The following table will give a conciſe view of the ſtate of the population, as well as of the different employments of the inhabitants:

Population

* It was, by act of Parliament, in the year 1695, erected into a market town, with the privilege of holding a weekly market on Tueſday, and two fairs annually, the one on the third Tueſday of May, and the other on the firſt Tueſday of November, O. S. A Lammas and Candlemas fair have been added to the number, but the two old fairs are beſt frequented.

Population Table of the Pariſh of New Monkland.

Population in 1792,	3560	Wrights, - -	21
—— *anno* 1755,	2713	Coopers, - -	2
	——	Weavers, - -	227
Increaſe,	847	Shoemakers, - -	16
Average of births, for 3 years preceding 1792,	116	Tailors, - -	13
Ditto of deaths *,	60	Butchers, - -	4
Ditto of marriages,	36	Millers, - -	14
Inhabitants in Airdrie,	1762	Bakers, including apprentices,	7
—— in the country,	1800	Candlemakers, - -	2
Proprietors reſiding, above	95	Brewers, - -	3
—— non-reſiding,	5	Sadlers, - -	3
Clergyman, - -	1	Clockmaker, - -	1
Surgeons, - -	3	Iron founder and ſervants,	3
Druggiſts, - -	2	Stockingmakers, -	25
Writer, - -	1	Poor, on an average,	45
Meſſengers, - -	2	Capital of their funds,	L. 100
Schoolmaſters, - -	2	Annual income and expenditure, about -	L. 70
Farmers, - -	204	Exciſeman, - -	1
Shopkeepers, grocers, and victual dealers, -	32	Diſtillers and their ſervants,	9
Slaters, - -	5	Tambourers, (children who flower muſlin with the tambour-needle), -	202
Maſons, - -	16		

Manufactures.

* There is no bill of mortality kept in the pariſh; but, from the account of the mort-cloth dues, the average number of deaths, for theſe 3 years paſt, is 45 yearly, buried at the pariſh church, beſides thoſe buried elſewhere, which may be reckoned about 15 more. The average of marriages, for the ſame period, is 36 yearly. The births are not all recorded; ſome parents neglect it to ſave the expence, and ſome, from religious ſcruples againſt the tax. The average number of baptiſms, recorded for the laſt 3 years, is 96 *per annum*, but it is ſuppoſed that 20 more yearly are not recorded.

Manufactures.—The diſtillery of malt ſpirits, brewing of ale, malting, candle making, and iron founding, are the only manufactures of conſequence carried on at Airdrie, as the weavers and tambourers are chiefly employed by Glaſgow manufacturers. The diſtillery is carried on to a conſiderable amount, there being about 40,000 gallons of proof ſpirits made annually. It is allowed, by judges, that the malt ſpirits made at Airdrie are of a peculiar fine quality and flavour; and although a ſmall quantity only is uſed here, there is a conſtant demand for it from every part of the country, and ſome of it is exported to America and the Weſt Indies on account of its quality. There are 7 corn mills, 6 lint mills, and 3 ſets of rollers for cruſhing malt. The thirlage is no great hardſhip here, as the multures are generally ſmall. On that account, ſome proprietors of mills have allowed them to fall to ruin.

Character.—Conſidering the number of the inhabitants, and the want of magiſtrates, the morals of the people are much better than could be expected. None born in the pariſh have ever ſuffered either corporal or capital puniſhment. The people, in general, are hoſpitable and ſober. Diſſipation is only to be found among a few of the lower rank. They attend church regularly, and are generally very clean and well dreſſed. As every perſon, who chooſes to work, finds employment, the trades people, in general, are in eaſy circumſtances, and appear to be contented. Almoſt every tradeſman is proprietor of a houſe and garden, which gives them a natural attachment to the place. The people of Airdrie ſeem to have a peculiar foible of keeping a great number of uſeleſs dogs, which are a nuiſance to every paſſenger, and plainly points out the propriety of a tax being laid on theſe animals.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The parish is, on the whole, more beautiful than fertile. Its chief advantages are the plenty of coals and peats, water and free stone, good roads, and cheap living; but one great disadvantage is, the distance from lime, which is the manure that answers the soil best. Another disadvantage is, that the College of Glasgow are titulars of the teinds, which are said to be mortified by an act of Parliament, and are therefore not saleable. This, and several neighbouring parishes, are therefore obliged, either to take leases of their teinds every 19 years, and to pay an arbitrary grassum to the college, or else to get them valued by a process before the Court of Session, which is attended with great expence. This calls loudly for redress, as it hurts the spirit of improving the lands, the College having a right to the fifth part of the rents, in case of a valuation. It would, therefore, be for the interest of these parishes, as well as of the College, to apply for an act of Parliament to make the teinds saleable, and to lay out the price upon lands for behoof of the College, by Commissioners appointed for that purpose; which would not only remedy this grievance, but secure the College revenue, encourage agriculture, and prevent many expensive processes between the College and the landholders. The parish, in general, is deemed healthy. No epidemical distempers are known here. Many persons now living are above 80 years of age, and 3 near 100. The small-pox is the most fatal disease, as inoculation, by some fatal prejudice, is not yet become general. Considering the prodigious number that Great Britain losses annually by this disease, a premium should be given by government, for some limited time, to encourage the general practice of inoculation, amongst the middling and lower ranks of people. It appears, that the ancient Celts or Gauls once inhabited this part of the country, as many places have Gaelic names, such as Rochsolloch,

ſolloch, Airdrie, Drumgray, Drumſkioch, Ballochnie, &c. The only antiquity * worth remarking, is a large artificial cave, dug out of a bold rocky eminence, on the banks of the river Calder, in the eſtate of Monkland, in a moſt romantic and ſequeſtered ſpot, and which ſeems to have been a very laborious undertaking. But whether it has been intended as an aſylum in barbarous times, or the abode of the melancholy hermit, tradition is perfectly ſilent, although the former is moſt probable.

* There were alſo to be ſeen, a few years ago, the remains of a Roman Catholic chapel, at a place called Kipps, which was deſtroyed at the Reformation. At this chapel, the abbots of Newbottle held annual courts, for levying the rents and feus of the hundred pound land of the barony of Monkland, then belonging to the Abbey of Newbottle; but this venerable monument of antiquity is now demoliſhed, a more than *ruſtic* farmer having lately removed the walls, and turned the ſcite of it into a corn field. Upon a riſing ground, there is ſtill to be ſeen an upright granite ſtone, where it is ſaid, in former times, they burnt thoſe imaginary criminals, called witches.

NUMBER XXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF LUNDIE AND FOULIS.

(*Counties of Angus and Perth.—Preſbytery of Dundee.—Synod of Angus and Mearns.*)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW HALLY.

Erection and Conſtitution.

THESE pariſhes, originally diſtinct, were united in 1618, by decreet of the High Commiſſion, and have ever ſince been under the charge of one miniſter, who diſpenſes ordinances alternately at each church; but, as they lie in different ſhires, (Lundie in Forfar, and Foulis in Perth), each pariſh continues to have its own kirk-ſeſſion, poor's box, and ſeſſion regiſter. It will therefore be proper to deſcribe each of them ſeparately. And, firſt, of

LUNDIE.

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.—LUNDIE, the name of the largeſt lake in the pariſh, as well as of the pariſh itſelf, is of Gaelic origin, being derived from *Linn-Dé*, which ſignifies the *water or pool of God*, probably on account of its great extent; as high hills, of old, were called *the hills of God*, and deep waters, *the waters of God*. It is of a circular form, and contains 3258 acres, of which 2000 are arable, about

110 in lakes, 119 in meadow ground, and the remainder hill and paſture. It is ſurrounded by Siddley-hills on the north and weſt. The ſouth ſlope is green, and affords good paſture. The north or back part is heathy. The middle of the pariſh is pretty flat, and the ſoil is ſufficiently productive, except in rainy or late ſeaſons, when the crop is ſeldom got in without damage. The air is not unhealthy *, though it muſt neceſſarily be moiſt, from the number of lakes and fens in the pariſh.

Lakes and Echo.—There are 4 lakes, all of which are ſuppoſed to be full of marl, from the ſpecimens that have been dug from their ſides; but none of them have as yet been drained. Lundie loch, which is about a gun-ſhot from the church, covers 72½ acres, and is 60 feet deep in ſome places. All of them abound in pikes, perches, and eels; but there are no trouts, or any other kind of fiſh in them. Theſe lakes are the fountains of Dighty Water, which is ſo beneficial to the country in general, particularly to Dundee; and which empties itſelf into the ſea at Monyfeith, about 10 or 12 miles from this.—At a ſmall hill, about 60 feet above the lake of Pitlail, there is a remarkable echo. When a perſon ſtands upon this hill, the ſurrounding mountains of Siddley forming a kind of amphitheatre, he will find a loud cry diſtinctly repeated three times at leaſt, if not four †.

Heritors

* There are no local diſtempers prevalent in either of theſe pariſhes. The moſt frequent diſeaſe is the rheumatiſm. Inſtances of extraordinary longevity ſometimes occur. One man died here, about 20 years ago, aged 106; and many have exceeded 80.

† The following anecdote ſtrongly marks the ſimplicity of country people:—One ſummer evening, a young fellow ſat down on this hill to divert himſelf and ſome friends, by playing on the ſhepherd's

Heritors and Rent.—There are 3 heritors, but none of them reſide in the pariſh. About 30 years ago, the land rent of Lundie was ſuperior to that of Foulis; but the caſe is now reverſed, which may be owing to the long leaſes or liferent tacks granted, by which the principal heritor of the former pariſh has not had it in his power to incloſe and improve the ground, whereby the greater part of it is ſtill in its natural ſtate. The difference between the rent of Lundie and that of Foulis cannot be ſtated with preciſion; the former is reckoned not much under 1000 l.; and ſome idea of the advance of rent may be formed from one farm, which, in 1642, was let at 50 merks Scotch, but is now eſteemed a good bargain at 100 l. Sterling.

Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle.—The chief productions are barley, oats, potatoes, and flax. There is more of this laſt article raiſed here than at Foulis, but not ſo much artificial graſs. Several farmers have tried the culture of wheat, but have all given it up, except one. The ſeed time for oats is from the 1ſt of March; for barley, about the 20th of May; and for wheat, from the middle of September to the end of October. Conſiderable quantities of oats, barley, and oat-meal, are exported, beſides ſupplying the inhabitants. The crop is ſomewhat later than at Foulis.—There are 140 horſes, and 364 cattle; 28 ploughs, chiefly of the conſtruction recommended by Mr James Small, in his Treatiſe on Ploughs,

ſhepherd's pipe, an inſtrument upon which he was reckoned a good performer. But he had hardly played a ſingle tune, when, hearing his muſic diſtinctly repeated three times over, he got up in great terror, averring that the Devil was certainly in the place; that he had never before engaged with *Satan*, and he was determined he never would again; whereupon he broke his pipe in pieces, and could never afterwards be prevailed upon to play any more.

Ploughs, &c.; and about 37 carts, with hay tops for leading corn. Where the ground is level, and the ridges ſtraight, theſe ploughs are managed by two horſes only; and one man both holds and drives, which occaſions a conſiderable ſaving of time and labour *.

Population.—For theſe 30 years paſt, the population has varied little; though, from the regiſter of baptiſms and burials, there appears to be a great increaſe; the number of the former, within that period, being 343, and that of the latter only 145. The number of inhabitants, at preſent, is 334, all of whom attend the eſtabliſhed Church, except two or three Seceders. Of theſe, there are 16 farmers, who keep two ploughs each; 2 ſmaller ones, who have a horſe and ſome cows; 14 weavers and 2 wrights, who have a cow and an acre of ground apiece; 2 taylors, 2 ale-ſellers, and 1 ſmith. There is alſo a ſmall bleachfield, with a waſhing-mill, beetles, &c. and a thread mill, which give work to 14 or 15 people.

FOULIS.

Extent, Surface, and Soil.—This pariſh is of a triangular form, lying nearly eaſt and weſt. The greateſt length is four meaſured

* The average annual wages of a plowman, in both pariſhes, are 8l. though ſome have 10l; thoſe of a maid-ſervant 3l. including bounties; ſuch as 2 yards of linen and an apron, with ground for 2 lippies of linſeed. About 40 years ago, the wages of the former were only 2l. and of the latter 20s. with the bounties. A day's wages of a man employed in agriculture are 1s. or 8d. with his victuals; thoſe of a wright 10d. a maſon 1s. and a taylor 8d. with their maintenance. Theſe wages are found ſufficient for the ſupport of themſelves and families while in health; and, when in diſtreſs, they are aided from the funds.

measured miles, and the medium breadth ſomewhat more than one. It contains 1200 acres of arable land, and 744 of hill, wood, and paſture ground.—The ſoil is, in general, rich, well cultivated, and moſtly incloſed. The ground has an eaſy ſlope towards the ſouth, which renders the ſituation very agreeable. There is only one hill, called the *Black Law*, which, though noted for good paſturage formerly, is now become of little value, by the total removal of ſheep from it. There are neither rivers nor rivulets in either of the pariſhes, but ſeveral lakes. One, which was called the *Piper Dam*, and which covered 55 acres, was drained about 15 years ago. A conſiderable quantity of marl, as well as of peats, has been dug from it. It not only ſupplies the pariſh, but part of the neighbourhood, with that ſpecies of manure, and yields a conſiderable ſum yearly to the proprietor.

Heritor, Tenants, and Rent.—The whole pariſh is the property of Sir William Murray of Auchtertyre, Baronet, who does not reſide in it.—More than one half is occupied by one farmer and his ſon; another farms 180 acres, a third 150, and the reſt is divided into about 20 ſmall farms. The rent is above 1000 l. Sterling. The farms let at from 10 s. to 20 s. an acre.

Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle.—About one third of the arable land in this pariſh, amounting to nearly 400 acres, is laid out in green crops, graſs, turnips, potatoes, and flax. The reſt produces wheat, oats, and barley. Foulis was the firſt pariſh in this country where a regular rotation of crops was attempted. It is about 20 years ſince the proprietors introduced it, and the ſucceſs encourages the continuance. The ſeed time is the ſame as at Lundie; and the crop is generally all cut down and gathered in by the 1ſt of October.

The

The pariſh, beſides ſupplying itſelf with proviſions *, exports conſiderable quantities of grain. There are about 90 horſes, and 300 head of cattle. The number of ploughs and carts is much the ſame as at Lundie.

Population.—Owing to the enlarging of farms, and throwing ſeveral poſſeſſions into one, the population has decreaſed to the number of about 100. The number of baptiſms, during the firſt ten years of the preſent century, was 163; and, during the laſt ten years preceding 1790, only 91. Yet, during the laſt 30 years, the number of baptiſms exceeds that of the burials by nearly one third, there having been 300 baptiſed, and only 208 buried in the pariſh within that period. The number of inhabitants, at preſent, is 314, all members of the eſtabliſhed Church, except 8 or 9 Seceders; among whom there are 10 weavers, 2 wrights, 2 taylors, 1 ſmith, 1 ſhoemaker, 1 diſtiller, and 20 ſmall farmers, each of whom has a plough, ſome with 4 horſes, and others 1 or 2, beſides the 4 great farmers above mentioned. But the preſent ſtate of both pariſhes will beſt appear from the following

Statiſtical Table of the united Pariſhes of Lundie and Foulis.

Length in Engliſh miles,	7½	Number of births for 30 years preceding 1790,	643
Breadth, - -	1½	Ditto of deaths, -	353
Population in 1790, -	648	Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church, -	636
—— —— *anno* 1755,	586	Seceders - -	12
Increaſe,	62	Proprietors,	

* The prices of proviſions have riſen greatly of late in both pariſhes; beef, mutton, veal, &c. from 2d. to 4d. *per* lib.; hens from 6d. to 1s.; butter from 4d. to 9d.; wheat from 14s. to 21s. *per* boll; barley from 10s. to 15s.; and meal in proportion.

Proprietors,	4	Perſons employed about the	
Clergyman,	1	bleachfield,	15
Schoolmaſters,	2	Diſtiller,	1
Farmers above 50l. *per annum*,	4	Poor,	10
		Horſes,	230
Ditto under 50l.	38	Cattle,	664
Keepers of ale-houſes,	2	Carts,	74
Smiths,	2	Ploughs,	56
Wrights,	4	Total extent in acres,	5257
Weavers,	24	Ditto of arable ground,	3200
Shoemaker,	1	Rent in Sterling money about	L. 2000
Taylors,	4		

Eccleſiaſtical State of both Pariſhes.—The manſe, and a glebe of ſix acres, are ſituated at Lundie. The ſtipend conſiſts of 4 chalders of victual, one half meal, the other barley, and 30l. in money, including communion elements. It may be eſtimated at 70l. *per annum*. Colonel Alexander Duncan of Lundie is ſuppoſed to be patron of both pariſhes, though Sir William Murray claims the patronage of Foulis. The church of Lundie lies exactly 3 miles and 120 feet diſtant from Foulis, in a north-weſt direction. When it was built cannot be aſcertained; nor is there any thing very remarkable about it, except an elegant monument lately erected at the eaſt end of it, by Lady M. Duncan of London, in memory of her huſband, the late Sir William Duncan, phyſician to his Majeſty, who lies interred there. But the church of Foulis merits particular notice, as a remarkable piece of ancient architecture. It is 88 feet 10 inches in length, and 27 feet 9 in breadth, and is built all of hewn ſtone. It is perfectly entire, without the leaſt ſymptom of decay, although it was built in the year 1142, during the time of the Cruſades, as appears by an inſcription on a large oak beam that ſupported the organ loft, having been erected in conſequence

of

of a vow made by the wife of one of the lords of this place, that, "in caſe her huſband ſhould return in ſafety from the holy wars, ſhe would build and endow a church *." It was made collegiate by Andrew the firſt Lord Gray, who placed therein a provoſt and ſeveral prebends, with ſuitable endowments, in the reign of James II. On the top of the eaſt gavel of the church there is a croſs; in the church-yard there is another, 8 foot high; and, about 10 or 12 years ago, there was a third croſs, 14 or 15 feet high, with ſteps all round, about a quarter of a mile north from the church. A new roof was put on the church about four years ago.

Schools and Poor.—There are two ſchools, one in each pariſh, but both are poorly provided, the legal ſalary of each being only 40 l. Scotch. The average number of ſcholars attending each is 30; and, though aided by voluntary ſubſcriptions, the encouragement is ſo trifling, that the pariſhes are often expoſed to changes, and as often but indifferently ſupplied. The average number of poor in each pariſh is 5. The collections at church, with the dues of the mort-cloth, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum lent, has hitherto been found ſufficient for their ſupport; and none are allowed to beg.

Miſcellaneous

* Part of this inſcription is ſtill legible, viz. *Hoc Templum ſtructum fuit Anno Milleſimo centeſimo Quadrageſimo ſecundo ab A. Gray.*——There are ſeveral other remains of antiquity to be ſeen here, particularly a number of paintings upon a wainſcot partition, (which ſeparates Lord Gray's burial-place from the church, and is ſuppoſed to be equally ancient), repreſenting our Saviour in various attitudes, the Apoſtles, with the inſignia of their martyrdom, the Roman Centurion, &c. At the weſt end of the church, there are the remains of a large font, beſides another without, and a third within the door. About 20 years ago, there ſtood in the eaſt end of the church a large black oak table, which went by the name of *the altar*. It was placed before a preſs in the wall, with an iron door. Upon theſe are repreſentations of prieſts in their ſacerdotal robes, &c.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The roads were formerly made by ſtatute labour, which is now commuted. Turnpikes are beginning to be erected; the people, in general, approve of them; but ſome of the inferior ranks are not yet reconciled to them.—The fuel generally uſed here is coals, at the rate of 3l. *per* chalder. Some peats are alſo uſed.—The principal advantages of Lundie and Foulis are their vicinity to the Tay, by which lime and coals are eaſily procured, and the extra produce of the pariſhes exported.—The names of ſeveral of the villages are derived from the Gaelic; *e.g. Balſhando*, the old black town on the back of the hill; *Lincrieff*, a town on the ſide of a hill, with trees, and the like: Others from their ſituation; as *Smiſtown*, becauſe miſts lie long upon it, &c.—The people, in general, are ſober, regular, and induſtrious. They enjoy, in a reaſonable degree, the comforts of life, and ſeem to be contented with their condition.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF MOUSWALD.

(*County of Dumfries.—Preſbytery of Lochmaben.—Synod of Dumfries.*)

By the Reverend Mr JACOB DICKSON.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name *Mouſwald* is ſuppoſed to be of Saxon original, ſignifying a wood, or as ſome think, a plain riſing country, not covered with wood. The term *wold* ſeems to have been deſcriptive of long ranges of high land lying in a particular direction. Thoſe places ſo named in England, viz. York Wolds, Lincoln Wolds, &c. and the range of which this diſtrict makes a part, lie from S. E. to N. W.; and, having the S. W. ſide much expoſed to the ſtrong and frequent S. S. W. and W. winds, blowing from the mouth of the Solway Frith, probably accounts for their appearance without trees on the higher parts, while there was formerly plenty of wood on the lower ground; and perhaps *wold* was the term for the whole range of hills from the S. E. end in Mouſwald to the N. W. end in Tinwald. But in later times, when the country became better peopled, and was divided into diſtricts, or pariſhes, it was neceſſary to diſtinguiſh each, by annexing ſome other word or name, which, in this inſtance, ſeems to have been from the Engliſh. And, becauſe this diſtrict was neareſt to the great moſs, called *Locharmoſs*,

Locharmoſs *, perhaps it might originally have been named *Moſswold*, or that diviſion neareſt to the moſs; which, from the ſituation of the church, has been a ſtriking object for time immemorial, and almoſt the whole of which (for 12 miles in length, and full 3 Engliſh miles in breadth in ſome places) is ſeen by the obſerver in one view. Now, if we allow that the latter part of the name is not according to the original ſpelling, we may as well ſuppoſe *mous*, as now uſed, to have formerly been *moſs*.—The pariſh is a part of that diſtrict formerly called the ſtewartry of Annandale, now united to the ſhire of Dumfries. It is, in length, between 4 and 5 Engliſh miles, from north to ſouth; and, excluding the moſs, nearly about 2 Engliſh miles in breadth, on an average, from eaſt to weſt; but, including the moſs, its figure nearly reſembles that of a heart, narrowing both on the north and ſouth quarter, as it deſcends to the moſs, and ſtill growing narrower, till it terminates on the ſmall river Lochar, which divides it from Carlaverock. It would meaſure from the eaſt to this ſouth-weſterly point between 4 and 5 miles.

Surface and Soil.—The ſurface of the pariſh is plain and level, rather than hilly; and, though there are ſeveral riſing grounds in it, they have ſo gentle an aſcent as to be cultivated with the plough to the very ſummit.—The ſoil is various; two or three farms adjoining the moſs have a conſiderable quantity of paſture ground, which is wet and marſhy, and ſome of the arable land is alſo wet; while other parts of theſe farms, riſing conſiderably above the level of Locharmoſs, are light and ſandy. A conſiderable part of the pariſh next to theſe, though riſing a little above them, appears, for a

* See the accounts of the pariſhes of Tinwald and Torthorwald, in the 1ſt and 2d Volumes.

a mile in breadth, to be pretty level, and is either light and ſandy, or a thin ſoil, and gravelly bottom; and, in ſome places, very ſtony, much inclined to produce broom in the courſe of 3 or 4 years, even when laid down rich with graſs ſeeds. Next to theſe farms, the riſing grounds towards the eaſtern part of the pariſh are of a moderately deep and rich ſoil *.

Air, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—Notwithſtanding 882 acres and 2 roods of Lochar Moſs lie in the weſtern extremity of this pariſh, and notwithſtanding its contiguity to that large track of moſs, of which it is a part, the air is pure, and tolerably healthy, owing to the vicinity of the ſea, which flows within 4 Engliſh miles of the center of the diſtrict, and the dry and ſandy bottom of the far greater part of it. No epidemical diſeaſes are peculiar to the inhabitants. Rheumatiſms and nervous or hyſterical complaints prevail of late years much more than formerly. On the whole, although the inhabitants, in general, do not arrive at extreme old age, yet numbers attain to 70, and ſeverals to 80 years. There are a few at

* The face of the pariſh is greatly altered to the worſe within theſe 12 years. In the grounds belonging to the Duke of Queenſberry, conſiſting of about 2870 acres of arable, paſture, moſs, and meadow; 92 acres, or ſomewhat more, were lately wood lands, conſiſting chiefly of beautiful thriving oak, aſh, and other foreſt trees, finely interſperſed with corn fields, checquered, both in the low and riſing grounds, with clumps and beautiful ſtrips of natural wood. But theſe woods, which were ſo ornamental to the country, and uſeful both to the proprietor and to the public, have not only been ſold and cut down, but left unincloſed, and expoſed to the cattle; ſo that not one in a hundred of them will ever again arrive at perfection. The farm-houſe which the traveller had formerly only here and there a peep of, are now left naked, and expoſed to view in every direction; and, what is worſe, without any thing to ſhelter them from the furious guſts of wind which ſometimes blow from the opening of the Solway Frith, and from the S. W. and W.

at preſent above 80, and one woman in the 88th year of her age.

Agriculture and Produce.—The crops conſiſt of oats, barley, and potatoes. Some few farmers raiſe a little wheat and rye. Some, too, ſow turnips, which ſeem to agree very well with our ſoil. A very few plant field-cabbages, and ſow ſmall quantities of grey peaſe. Moſt of the farmers in this diſtrict ſow red clover and rye graſs, with barley, for cutting, the greateſt part of which is conſumed by their own horſes. They alſo begin to lay out their grounds much richer than formerly, and ſow them with white clover and ſtable ſeeds for paſture, and find themſelves well repaid. The ſoil of this pariſh, however, ſeems to be too light and thin, in general, for producing wheat in ſufficient quantities to indemnify the farmer for his labour and expence. They ſow wheat after a potatoe fallow, a ſummer fallow, or after turnips, which had been ſown in the drill way; and, after all the pains and expence beſtowed on a ſummer fallow, it hardly brings them 10l. *per* acre, which is ſcarcely two thirds of what an acre of wheat in a wheat country would fetch. Moſt farmers ſow a little lintſeed for their own uſe. A conſiderable quantity of potatoes is carried to Dumfries market, 6 miles diſtant from the center of this pariſh, or to ſloops at different parts of the Solway Frith, about 5 or 6 miles from hence. Oats and barley are the chief grains the farmers, in general, depend upon for paying their rent; and they raiſe a conſiderable quantity of both, of an excellent quality. A good deal of hemp was raiſed and ſpun in this pariſh 40 years ago. At preſent, there is very little to be ſeen. There is no land in common in the diſtrict, every proprietor and every tenant knowing his own property. There is very little waſte ground, the above moſs excepted, which affords

but

but little paſture, and a ſmall ſpot of moor on the N. E. quarter of the pariſh, which is the higheſt ground in it, and which ſtill remains in a ſtate of nature, and on the ſummit of which there is ſome little heath; a few ſheep, to the number of 140, are ſupported on it, and on the farm of which it is a part.

Wood and Wild Animals.—There are ſome thriving natural woods, the property of Sir Robert Grierſon of Lagg, on the north quarter of the pariſh; and ſeveral acres have lately been planted by that gentleman, with different ſorts of fir and other foreſt trees. There is alſo a ſmall piece of natural wood, conſiſting of oak and aſh, on a farm on the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, lately purchaſed by the Viſcount of Stormont.—The wood-lark, bullfinch, and moſt of the other kinds of birds common to the ſouth of Scotland, are to be found in the woods. It is ſaid there are numbers of the golden-creſted wrens ſeen here. In the moſs there are the bittern, ſnipe, moorfowl, and curliew. Some black game have alſo been ſeen. Plenty of wild ducks hatch here, and abundance of wild geeſe in hard winters. Woodcocks are alſo found here in winter; and the ſwallow, cuckoo, fieldfare, green and grey plovers, in their ſeaſons. Polecats, commonly called *fumarts*, abound here; and there are numbers of foxes; both of which, particularly the latter, make great havoc among the poultry.

Rivulets.—There are no rivers in the pariſh, Lochar, as has been noticed, only touching it for a few yards in one point. But it is well watered with ſeveral rivulets, which take their riſe in the higher grounds, and run into Lochar. It has alſo plenty of fine ſpring wells. St Peters, about 100 yards weſt from the church, is one continued ſpring for 30

or

or 40 yards. It never freezes even in the hardeſt winters; nor does the rivulet into which it runs freeze for a conſiderable diſtance after their junction. The rivulets afford burn trouts in the ſpring and ſummer months; and plenty of ſea trouts, of no conſiderable value, are caught in them, from Michaelmas till after Martinmas *.

Population.—Previous to the ſurvey taken by Dr Webſter, the population of this pariſh cannot be aſcertained; but, from a pretty accurate ſurvey taken in ſpring 1791, the numbers and profeſſions of the inhabitants were found to be as ſtated in the following ſtatiſtical table.

Statiſtical Table of the Pariſh of Mouſwald.

Length in Engliſh miles,	4½	Average of births for 10	
Breadth, - -	4	years preceding 1791 †,	16½
Population in 1791, -	628	Ditto of deaths, -	9
—— *anno* 1755, -	553	Ditto of marriages, -	5
	——	Inhabitants in villages,	242
Increaſe,	75	—— in the country,	386
		Males,	

* From the dry land quite through Lochar Moſs, there is a fine ſpot of meadow ground, made in the courſe of ages by the rivulet, which was the ancient boundary, in this diſtrict, between Nithſdale and Annandale, and by thoſe rivulets which run by the Cleughbrae-mill, and by the village of Mouſewald, and which meet at the ſide of the glebe, a little below the manſe, and thence got the name of the *Miniſter's Burn.* Of this meadow ground, 102 acres, lying in this pariſh, and belonging to the Duke of Queenſberry, were divided among his tenants about 40 years ago, and incloſed by ditches. A conſiderable part of it is ſtill laid under water by the Michaelmas floods, whereby it is enriched, but ſeldom ſuffers any damage by the floods which happen about Lammas, as the meadows on the ſide of Lochar often do.

† The Births entered on the regiſter for the laſt ten years are as follows;

Males.

Males, - -	298	Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church, -	614
Females, - -	330	Burgher Seceders, -	2
Perſons under 10 years of age, - -	157	Antiburgher ditto, - -	10
Ditto from 10 to 20, -	109	Ditto of the Relief Chapel,	2
Ditto from 20 to 50, -	253	Perſons born in England,	2
Ditto from 50 to 70, -	94	——— in Ireland,	3
Ditto above 70, -	15	Proprietors reſiding, -	2
Families, - -	123	——— non-reſiding,	2
Houſes inhabited by 1 perſon each, -	14	Clergyman, - -	1
Ditto inhabited by 2 perſons each, - -	11	Schoolmaſter, - -	1
Married perſons, -	94	Farmers, - - -	48
Children, at an average, from each marriage,	5 or 6	Ditto from 3 to 9 acres,	12
Widowers, - -	5	Smiths 3, journeymen 2,	5
Widows, - -	19	Maſons, - -	1
		Carpenters, 4 journeymen, and 4 apprentices, -	8

Weavers,

		Males.	*Fem.*	*Deaths for the ſame period.*
1781,	11	5	6	9
1782,	16	9	7	11
1783,	16	6	10	0
1784,	17	7	10	11
1785,	16	7	9	15
1786,	17	13	4	8
1787,	17	7	10	10
1788,	22	8	14	5
1789,	12	4	8	13
1790,	21	16	5	8
Total	165	82	83	Total deaths 90

The regiſter of marriages cannot be depended on; the average may probably be about 4 or 5. Nor is the regiſter of burials exact, no account being kept of children dying under 2 years of age. Each marriage, at an average, produces 5 or 6. Many have 8, ſeveral 10, and ſome 12 children.

Weavers, 10 journeymen, and 5 apprentices,	15	Two Wheel chaiſe, -	1
Stockingmaker, - -	1	Carts, - - -	96
Taylors, 4 journeymen, and 2 apprentices, -	6	Ditto in 1740, - -	2
Millers, - - -	2	Ploughs, (moſtly Scotch)	52
Day-labourers, - -	10	Valued rent, in Scotch money, merks, -	2850
Cottagers, - -	60	Real rent, *anno* 1791, in Sterling, -	L. 1500
Male farm ſervants, -	24	Horſes, - -	142
Female ditto, -	25	Black cattle, -	753
Poor, - -	6	Sheep, - -	386

Rent.—The farms, in general, are but ſmall, and pay from 12 l. 10 s. to 47 l. of yearly rent. One farm pays 165 l. beſides public burdens; another 140 l.; another 70 l. and one 56 l.; but the generality of them are under 20 l. Beſt arable ground pays 1 l. 1 s. *per* acre. The Duke of Queenſberry has ſeveral cottagers, who poſſeſs a houſe, kept in repair at their own expence, and a ſmall kail-yard, for which they pay 3 s. and the higheſt 5 s. yearly. The farmer's cottagers, in general, pay 1 l. for a houſe and yard, or ſhear in harveſt to the tenant; who keeps their houſe in repair, and ſows them 4 pound weight of lintſeed, and plants them a fur or two of potatoes *.

Village and Antiquities.—The village of Mouſwald is the only one in the pariſh, that comes properly under this de-

* The prices of proviſions are always regulated here by the market of Dumfries, which is only 6 miles from the center of this pariſh; and moſt articles may be bought full as low in the market as on the ſpot. Labour is much the ſame price in all the neighbourhood of Dumfries. Servant's wages are more than doubled within theſe 50 years; male-ſervants 3 l. 10 s. and 4 l. the half year; female-ſervants 30 s. to 40 s. for the ſame ſpace.

ſcription. It conſiſts of 26 inhabited houſes, and contains 116 ſouls. Woodſide contains 66 perſons, Cleughbrae 35, and Banks 29; the reſt of the pariſh having only 2 or 3 houſes ſtanding together, or a ſingle farm-houſe, and the offices belonging to it. There are the remains of five old ſtone ſquare buildings in this pariſh, all of which probably, in former times, were uſed both as places of reſidence and defence againſt the depredations of the Engliſh. Three of them, though now ruinous, had part of three ſtories ſtanding within theſe 50 years. One, at a place called *Bucklerhole*, (or, as ſome would have it, *Bucklerhold*), had lately two ſtories, and what they called a *watch-houſe*. Great part of the walls are now taken down. Another at Raffles was pretty entire 12 years ago. And the old part of the manſe, in the memory of thoſe with whom the preſent incumbent has converſed, was a high tower, having a pigeon-houſe at top. Its walls are very thick *.

Roads

* The moſt conſiderable of theſe old buildings is that at Mouſwald Mains, or, as it is ſometimes called, *the Place*. It has been the largeſt, and is very ſtrongly built. It was the ſeat of a Sir Simon Carruthers, the Laird of Mouſwald, who was what the old people called a *belted knight*. His only daughter, it is ſaid, married into the Queenſberry family, by which means they came into poſſeſſion of the eſtate. In the aile of the church there were formerly two ſtatues as big as the life; the one is ſaid to be an effigy of Sir Simon, and the other of his Lady. The latter was of beautiful white free ſtone, and has been quite carried off. That repreſenting Sir Simon now lies on the outſide of the aile; his head lying on a pillow; his feet on a lion; his hands elevated in a ſupplicating poſture. There is no inſcription. There are alſo ſeveral camps in the pariſh, probably Britiſh; one at Burronhill, with a ſtrong double foſſe or ditch. In digging the foundation for a new ſchoolhouſe there three years ago, ſeveral human bones were found. It is a fine ſituation. Another nigh the top of a little hill, called Panteth-hill, which has an extenſive and commanding proſpect.

There

Roads and Bridges.—There are excellent roads in the pariſh, and abundance of the beſt materials for making and keeping them in repair. The great military road from Carliſle to Portpatrick, which was finiſhed in this pariſh in 1776, runs through it from S. E. to N. W. by the church and manſe. A new turnpike road is nearly finiſhed, running in the ſame direction, and nearly parallel, along the riſing ground of the eaſtern quarter of the pariſh; and, between theſe two, a road leading from the church to Torthorwald, made lately by the road-money, which is now paid inſtead of the ſtatute labour. There are bridges over every rivulet both on the public and private roads.

Church and School.—It is not known when the church was built. It has been often repaired, and coſt the heritors about 90l. Sterling within theſe 3 years. It ſtill requires ſomething more to be done to make it even tolerably comfortable. It ſtands nearly in the center of the pariſh, on a fine eminence, and is ſeen from every farm, 2 or 3 only excepted; but ſuffers much from its expoſure to the S. W. winds. The Duke of Queenſberry is patron. It is uncertain when the old part of the manſe was built, part of it being very ancient; but an addition was made to it about 50 years ago. It was repaired about 9 years ſince. The ſtipend is 86l. 12s. including communion element money; and the glebe conſiſts of

There are ſeveral burrows, or, as they are called here, *cairns*, in which human bones have lately been found, and urns containing ſmall pieces of bones. One of theſe, ſituated about a mile and a quarter eaſt from the church, bears the name of the *Stryal*, or, as ſome ſay, the *Tryal-cairn*. Its circumference is 288 feet; and is nigh to what is ſtill called *Deadmangill*. At one of theſe places, tradition ſays, malefactors were tried, and executed at the other. Urns have alſo been found in ſome places where there was no appearance of *tumuli*.

of about 15 acres, viz. 10 acres arable, 3 of bog meadow, and 2 of woodland and paſture, worth about 15l. *per annum*. The ſchoolmaſter's Salary is 100 merks Scotch. The ſchool fees are only 1 s. *per* quarter for Engliſh and writing, 1 s. 6d. for arithmetic, and 2s. *per* quarter for Latin. Both ſalary and fees are by far too ſmall to encourage a perſon of claſſical education to continue the toilſome office for any length of time: Hence we are often changing maſters. It is a great pity but that ſome ſuitable proviſion were made for ſo uſeful an order of men. In winter, there is a private ſchool kept in another quarter of the pariſh, to which there is between 30 s. and 40 s. *per annum* left by the late ſchoolmaſter, a native of the pariſh, and between 4l. and 5l. to the poor, which fall to them at the death of two men, to whom theſe ſmall ſums are left in liferent. Several children find it more convenient to attend the above ſchool, and one in the pariſh of Ruthwell; ſo that the public ſchoolmaſter's income will not exceed 13l. *per annum*. There is a very good ſchool-houſe lately built, but no houſe for the ſchoolmaſter.

Poor.—The number of poor on the roll, who receive quarterly ſupplies, has not exceeded 6 in any one year ſince 1772; beſides whom, ſome few others receive occaſional aid. There are no poor's funds in this pariſh beſides what ariſe from the weekly collections. An addition of 5l. Sterling, however, was left at Whitſunday 1791, by a man who died in the pariſh of Dumfries, and left ſeveral children of his own, whoſe progenitors were natives of Mouſwald. There are none belonging to this pariſh who beg, yet it is daily infeſted with beggars from Ireland and the neighbourhood of Dumfries. Numbers from Ireland go up to England driving cattle, and return home begging.

There

There was not a ſingle pig, fed in the pariſh, 40 years ago. Now, almoſt every cottager feeds one. Pork or bacon is all the butcher meat that the poor uſe in their families; and the breeding and feeding of ſwine is now carried on by the farmers, to a conſiderable extent, for ſale, moſtly for the Engliſh market.

Fuel.—Peats are the fuel commonly uſed. The Duke's tenants get their's from the moſs within the pariſh. The other proprietors tenants get their's from the ſame moſs in the pariſhes of Torthorwald and Ruthwell; and, though there is an inexhauſtible fund of moſs, and they have peats for the caſting, winning, and leading, yet they conſume a great deal of time, which might and would be employed to much better purpoſe in the management of their farms, were coals to be got at a moderate diſtance. Several of the farmers are ſo convinced of this, that they have of late brought coals above 30 miles diſtance, and caſt fewer peats than formerly.

Character, &c.—The people are, in general, ſober, induſtrious, and diſcreet, and ſeemingly content with their circumſtances. None have emigrated, though a good many young men go from hence to England and the Weſt India Iſlands, in different lines of life; and ſeveral men, and ſome few women, paſs over to England, where they are employed as ſervants. None have ſtood a trial before the Court of Juſticiary for any capital crime. None have been baniſhed. Within theſe 20 years, one woman, about the age of 50, who had been inſane for ſome months, was guilty of ſuicide; and a man, above that age, was killed by lightning in the open fields, while herding black cattle, in the year 1781. None have enliſted

enliſted into the army, nor entered into the navy, for a great many years paſt; and none have died for want in the memory of the oldeſt perſon living.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—One great advantage which the tenants of the Duke of Queenſberry enjoy, is, that they have got leaſes for 19 years, and are freed from all public burdens whatever, road-money excepted, which they pay in lieu of the ſtatute labour formerly exacted; and have all their farms, (moſt of which, in former tacks, lay run-ridge), now laid by themſelves, and are ſetting about incloſing them with ditch and hedge at their own expence. Some are already incloſed and ſubdivided, ſo ſenſible are they of the benefit of incloſing. All the tenants in the pariſh have been ſo fully ſatisfied of this, that they have been for ſeveral years paſt willing to pay 5 *per cent.* to their landlords for money to lay out in this way. Another advantage they enjoy is good roads, and the eaſy acceſs they have to lime from the pariſhes of Cummertrees and Ruthwell, (the latter quarry diſcovered and wrought only about 13 years ago), and the ready market they find at Dumfries for every article they can ſpare. The lime at theſe places is ſold at 11 d. the Carliſle buſhel, containing 3 of Wincheſter, 4 buſhels making an ordinary ſingle cart-load. It might be ſold lower, were it not for the high duty laid on Engliſh coals brought acroſs the Frith, which duty is heavily felt, and is a great diſcouragement both to agriculture and manufactures. The thirlage to the two mills is light and eaſy. Some of the tenants in the pariſh, however, have ſtill various ſervices exacted from them; and tacks only for 9 years, both which are certainly great diſcouragements to improvement.

Miſcellaneous Facts.—Dreſs, and the mode of living, are much

much improved within theſe 40 years; and a change to the better ſeems to have taken place in the minds of the inhabitants, who can now laugh at the ſuperſtition and credulity of their anceſtors, who, it is ſaid, could ſwallow down the abſurd nonſenſe of a boon of ſhearers, *i. e.* reapers, being turned into large grey ſtones, on account of their *kemping*, *i. e.* ſtriving. Theſe ſtones, about 20 years ago, after being blaſted with gun-powder, were uſed in building the farm-houſes then erecting near the ſpot, which had formerly been part of a common.

The higher grounds afford the moſt extenſive proſpect that is to be met with in the ſouth of Scotland. From thence one has a full view of the Solway Frith, and many of the ports both on the Engliſh and Scotch ſide of it; the Iſle of Man, and many of the neighbouring counties, the greateſt part of Dumfries-ſhire, Galloway, part of Lanarkſhire, Peebles-ſhire, Northumberland, and Cumberland, in England. At the weſtern extremity of the pariſh, a perſon may ſtand on a particular ſpot, and throw a ſtone into each of the four neighbouring pariſhes, Torthorwald, Dumfries, Carlaverock, Ruthwell, and this pariſh, all terminating on the ſide of the ſmall river Lochar, near that point.

NUM-

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF CUMMERTREES.

(*County of Dumfries.—Preſbytery of Annan.—Synod of Dumfries.*)

By a Friend to Statiſtical Inquiries.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

FROM the name of the pariſh there is little doubt of its having been formerly covered with timber. Conſiderable tracts of natural wood ſtill remain, beſides the ſubterranean foreſts of oak, fir, and birch, with which the moſſes are every where repleniſhed. It now conſiſts of the antient pariſh of Cummertrees, and of the pariſh or chaplainry of Trailtrow annexed to it after the Reformation; and the whole is bounded by the Solway Frith on the ſouth, by the pariſhes of Annan and St. Mungo on the eaſt, and Dalton and Ruthwell on the north and weſt. The pariſh is about 4 miles long and 3 miles broad; but, as its figure is very irregular, its extent cannot be accurately determined.

Climate and Soil.—The climate is like that of moſt of the other pariſhes on the Solway Frith, humid, but by no means unhealthy; and the diviſion that has lately taken place of large tracts of common, and the conſequent improvement of thoſe lands, by incloſing and draining, do no doubt contribute to the ſalubrity of the air, and the prevention of diſeaſes occaſioned

occaſioned by ſtagnated water. The ſoil is various, but in general good; in the northern part, it is a loam above a free-ſtone; in ſome of the centrical parts, it is remarkably rich and fertile, and lies above lime-ſtone; near the ſea, the ſoil is ſandy, and what is now converted into arable, was formerly an extenſive rabbit warren; there are alſo many large tracts of flow moſs in this pariſh, not capable of improvement, unleſs at an enormous expence.

Population.—In 1755, the population was rated at 631. It is probable that this eſtimate was inaccurately made. The examinable perſons, above 8 years of age, amount, by a late account taken of them, to 845, amongſt whom are included ſome tranſient people, who are employed in the lime works at Kilhead. Notwithſtanding the quantity of waſte or common land brought into culture in this pariſh, it is doubtful whether population has increaſed ſince the beginning of this century, as the farms are much more extenſive than they formerly were, and the number of tenants have decreaſed in a proportional ratio. Twenty-five years ago, about 40 people, ſome of them farmers, but moſtly labourers and tradeſmen, emigrated from this pariſh to America, enticed by advertiſements, ſent from thence by perſons who had acquired large tracts of country, and wiſhed to have it peopled. The emigrants, upon their arrival, were miſerably deceived and diſappointed, and thoſe of them who had money enough to pay for their paſſage home, returned, bewailing their credulity. There is no town or village in the pariſh. It is poſſeſſed by 4 heritors, 3 of whom are reſident.

Rivers and Fiſhings.—The Annan, which bounds this pariſh on the eaſt, is the only river; it produces ſalmon, ſalmon trouts, and a ſmall fiſh called hirlings, that are ſome-

times taken in great quantities, and are, it is ſaid, peculiar to the rivers that diſcharge themſelves into the Solway Frith. They are of the ſize of a good burn trout, or herring, and are of two kinds, the red and the white; but the red are of a much ſuperior quality to the other, and are remarkably delicate: They afford much ſport to the angler. In the Solway Frith, great quantities of flounders and cod are taken, and ſome times turbot and ſoles are alſo caught; the prices, therefore, of both red and white fiſh, are, in general, moderate.

Quarries.—Free-ſtone, of a very hard and durable kind, and extremely proper for building, abounds in the northern and central parts of this pariſh; but the excellent lime-ſtone quarry near Kilhead, has been the ſole means of bringing the waſte lands into culture, and promoting the improvement of every part of the pariſh. The limeſtone got here is of an exceeding fine quality, and is purchaſed, either calcined, or in a raw ſtate, by the whole country around. The price, when burnt, is high, occaſioned by the duty laid upon coals imported from the oppoſite ſide of the Frith, as it is ſold at 11 d. *per* Carliſle buſhel, each of which contains 3 Wincheſter buſhels; but if the duty was taken off, might be afforded at 8 d. or 8½ d. which would be a conſiderable ſaving to the poor farmers, and the loſs to the revenue ſo inconſiderable, eſpecially when balanced by other advantages, as not to merit any attention. The duty upon water-born coal appears the more grievous and partial to the people on the Scotch ſide of the Frith, becauſe their neighbours on the Engliſh ſide are exempted from it, although it is difficult to determine upon what principle ſuch exemption was founded. Many applications have been made to government upon this ſubject, but the duty ſtill remains unrepealed, to the great obſtruction of the improvement and cultivation of the country.

try. To this unaccountable duty may alſo be aſcribed the low ſtate of manufactures, not only in this pariſh, but in moſt other parts of the county of Dumfries, and in all Galloway; it is therefore hoped, that adminiſtration will in time yield to the repeated repreſentations made upon this matter, and will ſubſtitute ſome other tax, upon the luxuries of life, in lieu of a duty which ſo manifeſtly tends to hurt agriculture, and to prevent the introduction of manufactures into the ſouth of Scotland.

Church, School, and Poor.—The patronage of this pariſh is in the Crown. The ſtipend has been lately augmented, and now is 50 l. Sterling in money, 100 merks for communion elements, and 6 chalders of victual, viz. 4 of meal and 2 of barley, which, at the ordinary prices of theſe articles in the country, brings the ſtipend to a total of at leaſt 120 l. Sterling *per annum.* The miniſter has alſo a glebe of 7 or 8 acres of rich land, and 16 acres laid off to him at the diviſion of a common in his neighbourhood, which is now moſtly brought into culture.—The ſchoolmaſter has the legal ſalary of 100 merks Scotch, 5 l. 11 s. 3 d. Sterling.—The number of poor is not great, and there is no other fund for their ſupport, except the weekly collections at the church, and the fines exacted for irregular marriages, and from other delinquents, who have been brought before the kirk-ſeſſion.

Agriculture, Produce, &c.—The improvement of the land, in conſequence of the diſcovery of lime-ſtone, has, within theſe 30 years paſt, been remarkably advanced. The chief crops are oats and barley, with ſome wheat; potatoes are alſo cultivated to exceeding good purpoſe, and conſtitute a large proportion of the food of the people. Every farmer, alſo,

alſo, ſows ſome turnips, which, with the potatoes, are planted in rows, according to the drill huſbandry, and as they are kept clean, howed, and often plowed between the rows, are a good preparation for a barley crop the enſuing ſeaſon. Oats are never ſown earlier than the middle of March, or the beginning of April, and barley from the end of April to the middle of May, wheat commonly in October, rye-graſs and clover are now almoſt univerſally ſown in with the barley crop, a large part of the pariſh is ſubdivided and incloſed with hedges and ditches, and, upon the whole, improvements in agriculture are daily advancing.

Valuation and Real Rent.—The valued rent is 3181 merks the real rent about 2800 l. Sterling, and what may appear extraordinary is, that the real rent in the year 1733, when the late incumbent got an augmentation, was little more than 500 l. Sterling. This great advance is only to be aſcribed to the diſcovery and uſe of lime, and the diviſion of the commons. The whole extent of the pariſh, by actual meaſurement, is nearly 7800 acres, in which is comprehended large tracts of moſs and muir incapable of culture.

Horſes, Black Cattle, Sheep, &c.—The number of horſes cannot be exactly aſcertained, but the breed is much improved by Engliſh ſtallions coming into the pariſh, in the ſummer ſeaſon, and the tenants, in general, breed and bring up as many young horſes as ſupply themſelves. Every farmer rears a conſiderable number of young cattle, which, after reſerving a ſufficient number to keep up their ſtock, are ſold to jobbers and dealers, when they are one or two years old, who carry them to the Carliſle and other markets. The price of a good year old ſtirk is 3 l. or 3 l. 3 s. The number of ſheep kept in the pariſh is very inconſiderable, moſt

of

of the tenants being debarred from keeping them, on account of the hedges and planting. Many ſwine are alſo raiſed in this pariſh, which are fed with potatoes and corn, and, when fat, ſold to dealers, who cure and export their carcaſes.

Price of Proviſions, Labour, &c.—The average price of oat-meal, for theſe 7 years paſt, has been 20 d. *per* ſtone; the price of barley, during that period, has not been lower than 6 s. nor higher than 10 s. 6 d. *per* Carliſle buſhel; the medium, therefore, may be eſtimated at 8 s. Conſiderable quantities of oat-meal are annually exported to Greenock and the weſt coaſt; and all the barley, except the ſmall portion retained for home conſumpt, is bought up for the Liverpool market, where oats are frequently ſent. Conſiderable quantities of potatoes are alſo exported. Grain is ſhipped at the mouth of the river Annan, and at a ſmall harbour called Powfoot, in this pariſh. The wages of men ſervants are, in general, about 8 l. *per annum*; of women, 3 l. 10 s. or 4 l. *per annum*, beſides maintenance. They are all hired from half year to half year; and the late increaſe of wages may be imputed to the vicinity of England, where they are ſtill higher, and where many of the ſervants in the lower part of Annandale frequently engage themſelves. The wages of day-labourers, employed in hedging or ditching, are 1 s. and ſometimes 1 s. 2 d. *per* day without victuals; maſons and joiners have 1 s. 6 d. *per* day.

Roads.—The military road, from Portpatrick to Gretna, made at the expence of government, interſects the ſouthern part of the pariſh. As it was lately falling into diſrepair, the funds ariſing from the compoſition of the ſtatute not being ſufficient for preſerving it, the truſtees for the high-roads made an application to Parliament for an act to erect turn-

pikes,

pikes, and levy tolls for keeping this road in repair; but they having diſcovered, at the ſame time, that the diſtance between Dumfries and Annan might be ſhortened by following another tract, they obtained a power alſo to carry a road by that line, and to levy tolls for its ſupport. This has accordingly been done; and the new road is carried to the northward of the military road, through a country rather in an uncultivated ſtate, which has already received much benefit from it. The other roads in the pariſh are ſupported by the compoſition for the ſtatute labour, which, however, is very inadequate to the purpoſe.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—The Caſtle of Hoddam, ſituated near the river Annan, is as perfect, and kept in as good repair as any building of the kind in Scotland, it was conſtructed originally by the Lord Herries, who frequently reſided here, but was greatly increaſed, and improved with additional buildings, by John Murray Earl of Annandale, into whoſe poſſeſſion it came, in the courſe of the laſt century. Mr Sharpe of Hoddam reſides with his family in the Caſtle, which he has repaired, and much improved, by adding ſeveral rooms to it. On the hill immediately above the Caſtle, ſtands the *Tower of Repentance*, a ſquare building, with remarkably thick walls, about 25 feet in height. There are various traditions concerning its name, and the motives for erecting it; but as it is ſituated on very high ground, and ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance, there is no doubt that it was uſed as a watch tower, from whence the motions of the Engliſh, before the union of the crowns, were diſcerned, and upon which beacons were lighted, to alarm the country when the enemy appeared. This tower ſtands in the church-yard of Trailtrow, where the people of that ſide of the pariſh are in uſe to bury, and where Mr Murray of Murraythwaite has

a burying place walled in, adjoining to the tower. In the lime-ſtone quarries of Kilhead, ſeveral veins of a beautiful ſpotted dark coloured marble have appeared, and large blocks of it being cut out, have been worked up for chimneys and hearths, ſome of which have been ſent to London. This marble is of a dark colour, and is mixed with ſhells, petrified vegetables, and other bodies, which greatly add to its variety and beauty, as the whole receives a very fine poliſh.

Feuel.—Peats are the only feuel uſed in this pariſh; the caſting and preparing of which, during the ſummer, conſumes much of the time which the people ought to dedicate to the improvement of their farms. From this labour, they would be in a great meaſure relieved, if coal was either found in this country, or allowed to be imported free of duty, from the oppoſite ſhore of the Solway Frith.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF BALLINGRY.

(County of Fife.—Preſbytery of Kirkaldy.—Synod of Fife.)

By the Reverend Mr THOMAS SCOTT.

Origin of the Name.

BALLINGRY ſignifies the Village of the Croſs. It is a compound of the Gaelic word *Bal*, which is a village, and *inri*, being the initials found on thoſe croſſes erected often in the fields, in honour of Chriſtianity, on which were inſcribed J. N. R. J. *Jeſus Nazarenus Rex Judicorum*, Jeſus of Nazareth King of the Jews.

Appearance and Soil.—The figure of this pariſh is irregular, its utmoſt length being 3 miles, its utmoſt breadth not above one. The ſoil, in this pariſh, is in general reckoned good, though not ſtrong; there is not more than a fourth of it in tillage, the reſt is employed in paſturage. In general, this part of the country is very imperfectly improved, and extremely naked of planting, excepting the eſtates of Lochore, Ballingry, and Navity, which have attained a conſiderable degree, both of cultivation and of beauty.

Crops generally raiſed, and Times of ſowing.—Oats is the grain moſt generally ſown here, and it is eſteemed the moſt advan-

advantageous crop; they ſow alſo a mixture of rough bear and barley, peaſe and beans and ſome wheat; but of this laſt, very little. The time of ſowing oats is towards the end of March, or the beginning of April; they ſow their bear from the beginning to about the middle of May. The rotation of crops here in general is, after breaking up ground, to take two crops of oats, and one of bear; with this laſt crop they ſow graſs ſeeds, and the ground then commonly remains in graſs 3 or 4 years before it is again broke up. There is, in this pariſh, one mill, that of Inchgaw, to which the different eſtates are bound *thirle*, that is, muſt have ground at that particular mill what quantity of victual is conſumed by the families living on the eſtate.

Population.—In 1755, the numbers were rated at	464
At preſent, the number of ſouls in this pariſh, is	220
Families, - - - - -	55
Being, to a family, - - - -	4
Of the above there are, males, - -	94
Females, - - - - -	126

Of the above there are 80 Seceders. About 30 years ago, it appears this pariſh contained above double the number of inhabitants, which it does at preſent. The obvious cauſe of this decreaſe of population, has been the throwing the principal eſtates into graſs farms, which are now in the hands of a few conſiderable dealers in cattle.

Productions.—Although there is a conſiderable quantity of grain raiſed in this pariſh, yet the ſoil being better calculated for graſs, the rearing of cattle forms the moſt conſiderable employment of the tenants, and is one of the principal productions of the pariſh. There are alſo in this pariſh both coal and lime; the laſt hath only been wrought ſince Captain

Park purchaſed Lochore, upon which eſtate they both lie. They are of an excellent quality; and will be of conſiderable benefit to this part of the country, as affording the means of improvement at a convenient diſtance, and at a moderate price.

Church and Poor.—The living conſiſts of 48 bolls of victual, one third being bear, and two thirds meal, and 48 l. in money. The manſe and offices are in very good repair.—In ſo ſmall a pariſh, the number of poor cannot be conſiderable; at preſent there are 7 upon the poor's liſt. The funds for their maintenance are extremely good. The collections at the church door may amount to 5 l. *per annum;* but there is an income beſides the collections, of about 30 l. Sterling annually, ariſing partly from money, and partly from land, the property of the poor. The poor receive according to their neceſſities, from 6 d. to 2 s. *per* week.

Waters.—There are no rivers of any conſequence in this pariſh. There is one ſmall rivulet named *Orr*, which iſſues from a conſiderable lake, called *Lochore*, from which the eſtate takes its name. The preſent proprietor hath formed a plan for draining this lake, which is already far advanced, the ſucceſs of which will gain about 150 acres of excellent land, beſides draining the ſurrounding grounds, which at preſent are annually overflowed. Towards the eaſtern extremity of the lake, there is a ſmall iſland, upon which is ſituated an old caſtle, ſurrounded by a high wall. The building conſiſts of an old tower, and ſeveral lower houſes. It was built by Duncan de Lochore, former proprietor of the eſtate, in the reign of Malcolm III.; but the eſtate paſſing into the hands of the Wardlaws of Torry, it from them received conſiderable repairs; and the name of *Robertus Wardlaw*, is upon

upon the chief entry to the tower. At preſent it is ruinous, but forms a very beautiful object in the lake.

In this pariſh there is a Roman camp, a little to the weſtward of the houſe of Lochore, which is ſtill remarkably entire, although, in ſome places, it is levelled and defaced. Its form is nearly ſquare. There appear, on the north and weſt ſides, three rows of ditches, and as many ramparts of earth and ſtone. There is a round turret on that ſide which is next the loch, the total circumference meaſuring about 2020 feet.

It has been conjectured, with much probability, that this was the ſpot where the ninth legion was attacked, and nearly cut off, by the Caledonians, as we have it narrated by Tacitus, in his life of Agricola. The preſent proprietor of Lochore, in proſecuting the plan mentioned above, for draining the lake, having occaſion to cut ſome ditches immediately under the camp, the workmen have dug up ſeveral antiquities, which are evidently Roman, particularly the head of a Roman ſpear. Juſt by the camp is a village called *Blair*, which, in the original, is ſaid to ſignify *locus pugnae*, or a place where a battle has been fought.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF GLADSMUIR.

(County of Eaſt Lothian.—Preſbytery of Haddington.—Synod of Lothian and Tweedale.)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE HAMILTON.

Origin and Name.

THE church of Gladſmuir was built by Baillie of Lammington, in the year 1695, and the pariſh was then formed by annexations from the contiguous pariſhes, Tranent, Hadington, and Aberlady. The etymology of the name offers nothing worth enquiry; it probably aroſe from the number of glades (kites), which frequented this pariſh in its barren ſtate, and are yet not unfrequent in the neighbourhood.

Soil and Climate.—Between the Frith on the north, and the banks of the Tyne on the ſouth, the country riſes gently to a ridge, on the ſummit of which the church is placed. The top of this ridge, which was long an open muir, was for ages robbed of its ſoil, being inceſſantly pared of its turf by the neighbouring inhabitants; it is now, therefore, clayey, ſhallow, and barren; but the ſoil becomes more fertile as you deſcend on either ſide. The air is pure, dry, and healthy, and epedemical diſtempers accordingly are rare.

Landed

Landed Property, Agriculture, &c.—The pariſh is divided amongſt 15 landed proprietors, only three of whom reſide within its bounds. It contains between 5 and 6000 acres of land, of which 3000 are in tillage; above 500 acres are annually ſown with graſs ſeeds; about 1600 are in paſture, and above 200 in wood. The real rent is about 4500 l. paid by 22 farmers, 4 of whom pay above 300 l. a year each, and 7 under 100 l. The rents are wholly paid in money, the kane and carriages, which were formerly exacted, being now converted.

One hundred and ſix two horſe ploughs, and 240 horſes, are employed; 134 black cattle, and about 100 ſheep are kept. Wheat, barley, oats, and peaſe, are the common produce of this diſtrict; cabbage and turnip crops are little raiſed, nor are potatoes ſo much cultivated as perhaps they ought to be, conſidering what a wholeſome and cheap food they yield to the lower claſs of people.

Population, Employment, Sects, and Manners.—The villages in this pariſh are 3 in number, and, by a ſingular coincidence, they contain exactly 59 families each. The number of families in the whole pariſh is 340; of ſouls, 1380; of theſe 647 are males, 733 are females, 1010 are above 10 years of age, and 370 are under 10. By Dr Webſter's table in 1755, the numbers were 1415. From the appearance of ruined houſes on the north ſide of the pariſh, an opinion has prevailed, that the inhabitants were once more numerous than they are now; but by a numeration which was made at the firſt ſeating of the church in the year 1697, it appears that the number of inhabitants then muſt have been under 1350. The baptiſm roll, at an average for the laſt 30 years, gives only 47 each year, which would denote a population conſiderably inferior to that which is here given; but many who attend

attend the church are careleſs about enrolling their childrens names; and Seceders often do not enroll at all in the pariſh regiſter.

No foreign trade is carried on, nor is any conſiderable manufacture eſtabliſhed in the pariſh; the inhabitants (excepting colliers) are moſtly employed in agriculture, or in the occupations connected with it. Twenty-two are farmers, and 140 farm ſervants are employed by them. Nine are ſmiths or journeymen, 8 carpenters, 20 weavers, 26 ſhoemakers, 7 taylors, 4 maſons, 4 millers, and 40 colliers.

About a twelfth part of the whole number may be Seceders.

The people, in general, are induſtrious and ſober. Few of them go into the army or navy. Very few crimes are committed, and puniſhments, accordingly, are but ſeldom required.

Rate of Wages.—Farm ſervants generally receive 3 l. 8 s. in money, half a boll barley, half a boll peaſe, 6 bolls and a half oat-meal, and a cow's paſture, which, altogether, may amount to 12 guineas, or 13 l. a year. The wife's labour in harveſt pays for the cottage which they inhabit; and they pay kane (a few fowls) for their garden. Women ſervants, living in the houſe, have from 50 s. to 70 s. a year; men ſervants, in the ſame ſituation, have from 5 l. to 7 l. Day-labourers earn 10 d. a day in winter, and 1 s. or 14 d. in ſummer. Carpenters earn 1 s. 2 d. in winter, and 1 s. 6 d. in ſummer; maſons, 1 s. 8 d. and 1 s. 10 d.

The wages of the colliers depend upon the work which they perform; when the ſeam of coal is about a yard in thickneſs, one active collier will employ two bearers, and, with their help, will earn a guinea or 25 s. a week. At preſent, when the ſtratum of coal is only two feet thick, even

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an induſtrious collier can employ but one bearer; with her help, he throws out from 80 to 90 loads of coals in the week, each load weighs 200 lb. and for this he is paid 2 d.

In general, over the whole country, (a ſtrong and a pleaſing proof of its improvement), the wages of labour are in a ſtate of rapid progreſſion; in time of health, they are equal to all the neceſſary expences of the ſober labourer, and even enable him to rear a numerous family.

Poor and Poor's Funds.—But ſickneſs and other misfortunes are unavoidable, and will often reduce the moſt induſtrious families to unexpected diſtreſs; in ſuch caſes the aid of public charity is required. This pariſh admits no vagrant poor to receive parochial aid, farther than is neceſſary for tranſporting them, when lame, beyond the bounds of the pariſh, therefore no common beggars reſide within its bounds. The ſettled poor are maintained in their own houſes, or are boarded with any relation who is willing to receive them. To prevent improper claims, the kirk-ſeſſion require an aſſignation of their effects, from all who become regular penſioners. There are at preſent 21 of this deſcription upon the poor's liſt, who receive, at an average, about 40 s. a year each. This, with charity to occaſional penſioners, and ſeſſion clerk's ſalary, make the whole annual expenditure amount to about - - - L. 55 0 0

This is defrayed by collections at the church doors, amounting to about L. 18 0 0

By fines upon irregular marriages, and fees for the uſe of mort-cloths, - - - 5 0 0

By intereſt of a ſum of money, 7 10 0

——— L. 30 10 0

and

and the deficiency is made up by an aſſeſsment laid equally upon the heritors and tenants.

Beſides the public parochial fund, the poor of this diſtrict derive conſiderable advantage from private friendly ſocieties, inſtituted by themſelves. Into the funds of theſe, they pay a ſmall proportion of their weekly earnings, and receive a comfortable allowance in caſe of ſickneſs or diſtreſs. This is the moſt effectual method yet deviſed, for preſerving the induſtry, and at the ſame time relieving the wants, of the labouring poor.

Church and Schools.—The church was built in the year 1695; the manſe was erected 30 years later; both were lately repaired, and are now in very good condition. The pariſh having been principally formed by annexations from the pariſhes of Tranent and Haddington, the King and Earl of Hopeton, who are patrons of theſe two churches, are alternately patrons of Gladſmuir. The glebe contains between 5 and 6 acres of indifferent land. The ſtipend conſiſts of 34 bolls wheat, 35 bolls barley, 31½ bolls oats, and 18 l. of money.

There is a parochial ſchool at the church, which is attended by about 60 boys and girls. The maſter has a pretty good houſe and garden, and 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. a year as ſchoolmaſter, which, with 40 s. as ſeſſion clerk, and perquiſites on regiſtering births and marriages, together with fees of teaching, make an income of 24 l. or 25 l. a year. There are, beſides, two leſſer ſchools on the north and ſouth extremities of the pariſh. The maſters are allowed 1 l. 2 s. 2 d. by the heritors, and teach about 30 children each.

Eminent Men.—This pariſh gave birth to George Heriot, founder of the hoſpital in Edinburgh, which ſtill bears his name,

name. His anceſtors were proprietors of the ſmall village of Trabrowne, and their names appear ſometimes on the roll of the Scotch Parliament. What is ſtill more to the honour of the pariſh, it was the firſt ſettlement of Dr Robertſon, the hiſtorian of Scotland; and his Hiſtory of Scotland was compoſed here.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—On the 21ſt of July 1789, a thunder ſtorm began in the north, and came gradually nearer, having circled round by the weſt. The ſchool, where above 70 children were then aſſembled, unfortunately ſtood in its way. The thunder burſt upon the houſe, and ſeemed at firſt to have levelled it with the ground. The walls were rent, the windows ſhattered, and the roof demoliſhed. A thick darkneſs, cauſed by the ſmoke and duſt, for a while concealed the extent of the miſchief; when it ſubſided, the neighbours, who firſt entered, anxious for the fate of their children, had reaſon to fear the worſt; for few ſigns of life appeared, the whole crowd of little ones, either ſtunned or terrified, lay ſtretched upon the ground, beneath the tables or benches where they ſat. Many were quite ſenſeleſs, but afterwards recovered. Two boys were killed outright, and the maſter, with many others, much injured. The effect of ſuch a ſcene is not ſoon worn off from the minds of children; a black cloud ſtill terrifies the whole ſchool, and a clap of thunder, more than ordinarily loud, ſcatters the whole little troop in an inſtant.

The preſent incumbent was not then miniſter of Gladſmuir, but he has ſince been at pains to obtain information as to all the particulars of ſo uncommon an event. The following, amongſt others, is ſingular: Two boys, who were in a ſeparate apartment in the weſt end of the ſchool, (the

thunder came from the weſt) declared that they ſaw a ball of fire, which hovered for a few inſtants over their heads.

There was a ſky light in this part of the houſe; but it was through the tiles, or rather within the roof, as the boys imagined, that the glare of this meteor was ſeen. They had no apprehenſion of danger; and were ſtill gazing at it, when it burſt with the fatal exploſion.

Accidents like this, however, but rarely occur, and, upon the whole, the inhabitants of this diſtrict are very well ſatisfied with their lot, nor have they any partial or local inconvenience to complain of. One great improvement, indeed, might be made in the ſituation of all the lower claſs of inhabitants, in this corner of the kingdom, by ſuch an alteration in the exciſe laws, as would enable and induce them to drink good ale, for their common beverage, in place of whiſky and other ſpirituous liquors. Such a change would be favourable to the health, the morals, and the induſtry of the people.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF DUNBLANE.

(County of Perth.—Preſbytery of Dunblane.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Reverend Meſſrs JOHN ROBERTSON *and* ROBERT STIRLING.

Origin of the Name.

DUNBLANE is ſuppoſed to take its name from St Blane, the tutelar ſaint of the place. It was once a cell of Culdees; and, in the reign of King David, was erected into a biſhop's ſee *. It is uncertain at what time, or by whom the cathedral was built. The chartulary, and other records of the biſhopric of Dunblane, are not to be found. The dioceſe conſiſted of part of Perth and Stirling ſhires. The rental of the biſhopric, at the Reformation, was nearly as follows: 1 Chalder wheat; 11 chalders, 11 bolls, 3 firlots, and half a peck of bear; 50 chalders, 1 boll, 1 firlot, 3 pecks and a half of meal; 9 chalders and 12 bolls of oats; and 313 l. Scots †.

Library.—Dr Robert Leighton was conſecrated Biſhop of Dunblane in the year 1662, and was tranſlated to the Archbiſhopric of Glaſgow in the year 1669, where he continued till the year 1675. Beſides his daily charities to the poor, he

* Buchanani Hiſtoria.

† Keith's Hiſtory.

he ſettled a fund for ſome pious and public good work, in all the places where he had intereſt and charge. He mortified 300 l. Sterling for the founding of his burſaries of philoſophy, in the College of Glaſgow; likewiſe 300 l. Sterling for the maintenance of four old men in St Nicholas's Hoſpital at Glaſgow. In the College of Edinburgh, he likewiſe founded a burſary of philoſophy, upon the intereſt of 150 l. Sterling. In 1673, he mortified the ſum of 1024 l. Scotch money, to the poor of the pariſh of Dunblane. And, laſt of all, he bequeathed and left his library to the cathedral and clergy of the dioceſe of Dunblane, by his laſt will and teſtament, in the following words: "My books I leave and bequeath to the Cathedral of Dunblane in Scotland, to remain there for the uſe of the clergy of that dioceſe."—The Reverend Mr Robert Douglas, ſon of Biſhop Douglas, bequeathed to the library the ſum of 300 merks Scots, and his own collection of books.—The Reverend Mr James Inglis, Epiſcopal miniſter at Muthill, left his books to the library.—Mrs Imbry, ſiſter and executrix to the Reverend Mr William Simſon miniſter at Dunblane, left 300 merks Scotch to the library.—The Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer in Scotland gave 20 l. Sterling to the library, out of the vacant ſtipend of Dunblane.—Conſiderable additions have, from time to time, been made to the library, out of the intereſt of the mortified money, beſides paying the librarian's ſalary, and repairing the houſe.—The library is under the direction of the following truſtees, nominated by Mrs Saphira Lightmaker, and Mr Edward Lightmaker, executors of the Biſhop, in their deed of mortification, viz. The Right Honourable the Viſcount of Strathallan, Sir Hugh Paterſon of Bannockburn, Sir James Campbell of Aberuchil, John Graham commiſſary-clerk of Dunblane, and their heirs male; the miniſter of Dunblane for the time being, and two other clergymen of the

the preſbytery of Dunblane, choſen by the ſynod of Perth and Stirling.

Mr Lightmaker ſent a very rich marble ſtone, of oval figure, well cut, having on it Biſhop Leighton's arms, with this inſcription, *Bibliotheca Leightoniana*, and a gilded mitre on the top of it, which is ſet upon the front of the houſe towards the ſtreet, as Lord Strathallan had adviſed. The inſcription and carving are now very much defaced.

Situation and Surface.—This pariſh, which is about 9 miles long, and 6 broad, is ſituated within the weſtern diſtrict of the county of Perth. It is the ſeat of a preſbytery, which bears its name, and ſubject to the ſuperior juriſdiction of the ſynod of Perth and Stirling. The ſoil is various. A great part of the pariſh conſiſts of arable land. But the greateſt part of it is moorland, covered with heath, and ſwampy. The grounds, in general, have a gradual declivity from the ſurrounding hills to the river Allan, which runs through the pariſh, giving the name of *Strathallan* to a conſiderable track of land along the river. Theſe hills are partly green; but, for the moſt part, covered with heath. There are a conſiderable number of ſheep, and ſome black cattle, grazed upon them; but very few of either, in proportion to the extent of ſurface. There is a great deal of moor game here; and the low grounds produce plenty of hares and partridges, which afford excellent courſing and ſhooting.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—The climate is in general healthy. The rheumatiſm is a very frequent diſorder among the lower ranks, and a great number die of conſumptions. Severals have ſurvived 90, during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter; and many now living are above 80. The ravages made

made by the ſmall-pox have ſometimes been very great, occaſioned by the averſion of the common people to inoculation.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.—There is no exact regiſter of the births and deaths in this pariſh. This is partly owing to the negligence of ſome, and to the unwillingneſs of others, to pay the tax and trifling dues on births, to which the ſeſſion-clerk is legally entitled, for his trouble in filling up the regiſter. According to the moſt probable account, the burials in the pariſh church amount annually to about 30. But ſome families bury in the chapel ground at Kilbryde, and others in the chapel ground at Ardoch; ſo that no certain concluſion can be formed from this article. The number of births is ſuppoſed to exceed 70 *per annum.* The number of marriages, at an average, for 6 years paſt, amounts to 23; but there are ſome irregular marriages in this pariſh and neighbourhood.

Rivers.—The river Allan, which runs through this pariſh, takes its riſe at Gleneagles, in the pariſh of Blackford, about the diſtance of 11 miles from Dunblane. It abounds with burn trouts, and in ſome places with pike. Some ſalmon, gilſes, and ſea trout, are got in ſummer floods. Its courſe is rapid for ſeveral miles. Afterwards it flows in beautiful curves through wide and fertile haughs. And, in the laſt part of its courſe, it is rapid, its banks ſteep, and moſtly covered with wood, and falls into the Forth, after it leaves this pariſh, a little above Stirling Bridge.—The river Ardoch, which takes its riſe at Lochmahaick, in the pariſh of Kilmadock, likewiſe runs through the weſt part of this pariſh. It abounds with burn trout.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 7578 l. 6 s. 8 d. Scotch.

Scotch. The real rent cannot be eaſily aſcertained. The rent of the land varies. The farms are, in general, ſmall; two thirds of them kept in graſs, and the other third under tillage. Some farms let from 5 s. to 15 s. *per* acre. Land in the immediate neighbourhood of Dunblane lets from 1 l. 5 s. to 2 l. 2 s. *per* acre.

Proprietors, &c.—There are 11 greater, and ſeveral ſmaller proprietors. Four of the former reſide in the pariſh, viz. Sir James Campbell, Baronet, of Aberuchil, William Stirling, Eſquire, of Keir, John Stirling, Eſquire, of Kippendavie, and Alexander Jaffray, Eſquire, of Gleſſingall. There is a commiſſary, and ſheriff-ſubſtitute, a ſurgeon, and four writers or attorneys.

Antiquities.—The Cathedral, and the ruins of the Biſhop's Palace, are the only antiquities in this pariſh. The Cathedral has been elegant and regular; but great part of it is in ruins. The length of it is 216 feet, breadth 56 feet, and the height of the wall to the battlements 50 feet. The ſteeple appears to be a more modern building, in height 128 feet. In it are two fine toned bells. The quire, which is uſed as the place of public worſhip, is almoſt entire. Several of the prebends ſtalls remain in good order, as likewiſe the original roof and cieling.

Church and Poor.—There are three clergymen in the town of Dunblane; the miniſter of the eſtabliſhed Church, of the Burgher, and of the Antiburgher Seceders. The King is patron of the pariſh. The living conſiſts of 32 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear; 61 l. 13 s. 4 d. in money, including 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for communion elements; a manſe, and a glebe of 4½ Engliſh acres. The miniſter's ſtipend was originally the Dean's living; and, beſides what is paid from the teinds

of

of the pariſh, conſiſts of feu-duties paid from Deanſkier, in the pariſh of Muthil; from Dean's Lundie, and Deanſtown, in the pariſh of Kilmadock; from Gogar, in the pariſh of Logie; from Craigarnhall, in the pariſh of Lecropt; and of teind-duty from Logie Almond, in the pariſh of Monzie.

The number of poor upon the roll of this pariſh is 34. Some years it has been above 40. They are maintained by aſſeſſments. Theſe commenced in 1775. The number of poor then upon the roll was 19; and the aſſeſſment 7s. 6d. was on the 100 l. Scotch of valued rent. The aſſeſſment has gradually riſen to 20 s. on the 100 l. Scotch. Laſt aſſeſſment was fixed at 15 s. The deficiency is made up from the intereſt of money mortified for behoof of the poor. Occaſional charities, given by the kirk-ſeſſion to poor houſeholders not on the roll, amount to about 5 l. *per annum*. Theſe are given out of the collections at the church-doors, dues of mort-cloths, &c.

Crops.—The principal crops are oats and barley. A conſiderable quantity of flax and potatoes, alſo of clover and rye-graſs, are ſown in this pariſh. More grain of every kind (except wheat, which is ſown only in ſmall quantities) than what is neceſſary for the maintenance of its inhabitants, is raiſed in this diſtrict.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads were originally made by the ſtatute labour; but it is hardly ſufficient to keep them in repair. The great military road to the north paſſes through nearly the length of this pariſh; and, being one of the greateſt thoroughfares in Scotland, would require more than the ſtatute labour to keep it in ſufficient repair. Many of the landed gentlemen are of opinion, that it ſhould be made a turnpike; but this has been prevented by a different opinion prevailing

prevailing in the diſtrict to the north of this pariſh.—The bridges on the Allan are good. There are no leſs than 6 upon it, 4 of which are within the pariſh. The Bridge of Dunblane, and the other bridges upon the public road, are kept in repair by the ſtatute labour and converſion money.

Fuel.—The greateſt part of the inhabitants uſe coals, brought from pits in the neighbourhood of Alloa, at the diſtance of 10 or 12 miles. Many of the farmers ſtill uſe peats dug in the moors. But the great length of time ſpent in working them, and the moderate price of coals, have induced the greateſt number to uſe this laſt as moſt comfortable, and, upon the whole, the cheapeſt.

Manure.—There are ſeveral pits of excellent ſhell marl in the pariſh; and plenty of lime, by water carriage on the Forth, is to be got at the diſtance of a few miles; and it is much uſed in improving the grounds.

Woods.—In this pariſh there is plenty of coppice wood and other kinds, ſuch as oak, elm, beech, plane, &c. beſides many plantations of firs.

Plane at Kippenroſs.—This plane is ſuppoſed to be one of the largeſt trees in Scotland. Its dimenſions are:

	Feet.
The height of the trunk - - - -	13
Circumference of the trunk at the bottom - -	27
——————————— at the ſmalleſt part -	18
——————————— where it branches -	30

Battle.—The battle of Dunblane, in November 1715, was fought at Sheriff Moor, in this pariſh, between the Duke of Argyle and Earl of Mar.

Population.—By a late ſurvey, it is found that there are in this pariſh 2750 ſouls; and it is ſuppoſed that the population has not increaſed much for 40 years; but no exact accounts of it have been kept. The return to Dr Webſter in 1755 was 2728 ſouls.

Schools.—In the town of Dunblane there are, beſides the parochial ſchool, three others, to which the generality of the people ſend their children to be initiated in the principles of the Engliſh language, previous to their being ſent to the principal ſchool. Owing to the extent of the pariſh, there are three other ſchools in different quarters of it, for the accommodation of thoſe who cannot come into the town. The number of ſcholars at the pariſh ſchool is, at an average, about 60. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 12 l. Sterling in money, and 7 ſtones of cheeſe, a houſe, and garden, in value about 6 l. Sterling. He is likewiſe ſeſſion-clerk. The perquiſites of which office are, including the ſalary, about 10 l. Sterling.

Alehouſes, Inns, &c.—There are no leſs than 41 houſes where ale and ſpirits are retailed, 29 in the town of Dunblane, and 12 in other parts of the pariſh. Theſe are the cauſes of miſery and poverty prevailing among many of the lower rank, who, laying aſide their induſtry, become diſſipated and abandoned, and at laſt, through diſeaſe, age, and infirmity, become, with their families, a burden upon the pariſh. In this manner the number of poor has increaſed much of late years. The greateſt number of thoſe upon the roll are virtuous labouring people, who are aged and infirm; but there are among them ſeveral of the above deſcription.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF INVERURY.

(County of Aberdeen—Preſbytery of Garioch.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM DAVIDSON.

Name.

INVERURY, ſo called from its ſituation at the confluence of the rivers Don and Ury, lies in the county of Aberdeen, and that diſtrict thereof called the Garioch, 14 miles north-weſt from Aberdeen.

Soil.—The pariſh of Inverury contains about 4000 acres, but ſcarce 2000 are arable.—The land near the rivers is generally a light rich mould, on a bed of ſand, and produces excellent crops, eſpecially in ſhowry ſummers, and earlier than moſt of the neighbourhood. From the rivers it riſes gradually to the ſkirts of the mountain of Benochee, which lies within a mile of the north-weſt boundary of the pariſh; and the ſoil is not ſo fertile on the higher, as on the lower ground, by the rivers.

The Borough.—The town of Inverury, where the pariſh church ſtands, is a royal borough. Tradition ſays, that it obtained this privilege from King Robert Bruce, on occaſion of a ſignal victory obtained by him there, over Comyn Earl

of

of Buchan, the king of England's general in Scotland, which proved the beginning of that good fortune that attended him ever after during the whole of his reign. The oldeſt charter is a *novodamus* by Queen Mary, narrating, that "Inverury had been a royal borough time immemorial, but the charter of its erection loſt in the time of the civil wars." It is governed by a provoſt, three baillies, a dean of guild, a treaſurer, and three counſellors. It does not appear to have ever been a place conſiderable for trade or manufactures. A great part of the townſmen are mechanics, ſuch as weavers, ſhoemakers, taylors, cart and ſquare wrights, and blackſmiths; and they are all employed in working for the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood; none in manufacturing articles for market. At the ſame time, they cultivate their ſmall pieces of property, of from one to ſix acres of land. There are about 60 of theſe ſmall proprietors of land within the borough, called *portioners*; and the Earl of Kintore is proprietor of about one half of the land. When let to tenants, it pays from 10 s. to 40 s. Sterling the acre, according to its quality The women are generally employed in knitting ſtockings for the Aberdeen manufacturers, and earn from 18 d. to 2 s. a week.

Bridges.—The ſituation of Inverury, between two ſuch conſiderable rivers, and ſometimes in land floods inacceſſible even with boats, on all ſides but one, has been a great obſtacle to its improvement. This obſtacle is now, however, in a great meaſure, happily removed. By the public ſpirited exertions of the Earl of Kintore, and Doctor Thom the preſent provoſt, ſubſcriptions have been promoted for a bridge upon Don; and an elegant and ſtately one was built laſt year, at the ſouth end of the town, which coſt 2000 l. Sterling. The accommodation, however, is not complete, without a bridge upon

upon Ury too. This will not coſt near ſo much as the other; and it is hoped ſome aid will be obtained from government, as the King's high-way, from Aberdeen to Elgin, Fort George, and Inverneſs, paſſes through Inverury; and there is a ſaving of 14 miles by travelling that road, rather than the lower one by Old Meldrum and Turreff.

Heritors.—In the country part of the pariſh there are 7 heritors; none of whom reſide in it but one, viz. Mr Johnſton of Woodhill, who occupies a well improved farm on the banks of the Don. He has planted 50 or 60 acres of the higher ground with various kinds of foreſt trees, principally Scotch firs, and they are in a very thriving condition.

The names of the old farm towns appear to be Gaelic, though this language has not been ſpoken in that part of the country for many centuries.

Agriculture.—The farms are of various ſizes, from 4 l. to 40 l. of yearly rent. The mode of cultivation is conſiderably improved of late, but much yet remains to be done in that way. Oats and barley are the principal crops. The average of the returns may be reckoned 4 of the former, and 5 of the latter.

The farmers have only of late begun to bring lime from Aberdeen, in any conſiderable quantities, to lay on their land. Every one now ſows turnips, and plants potatoes in the field, and the ground next year is ſown with barley and graſs ſeeds, for hay or paſture.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 1634 l. Scotch, excluſive of the borough, which has no valuation in the collector of the counties books. The real rent of the whole pariſh is about 700 l. Sterling.

Population.

Population.—In Dr Webſter's liſt, in 1755, the number of inhabitants were 730. In the month of Auguſt 1791, the number of inhabitants were 712, viz.

In the borough,	162 males.	198 females.
In the reſt of the pariſh,	178	174
In all,	340	372

Under 10 years of age,	146
Above 70,	35
Above 80,	8
Above 90,	1
Average number of births yearly,	18

They are all members of the eſtabliſhed Church, except 5 Papiſts, 10 Epiſcopalians, 8 Quakers, 4 Seceders, and a few Methodiſts.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are in the whole pariſh about 600 black cattle, 130 horſes, and 1000 ſheep, moſtly of a ſmall ſize. The people are generally ſober and induſtrious, and appear contented with their condition. A very remarkable alteration to the better has taken place within the laſt 20 years among them, in their dreſs, diet, and lodging, but eſpecially in the firſt of theſe articles.

The greateſt inconveniency they labour under, is ſcarcity of fuel. There are neither peat nor turf in the pariſh. They are obliged to fetch their fuel from other pariſhes, at a conſiderable diſtance; and this takes up their time for great part of the ſummer, when they ought to be more profitably employed. Coal are brought from Aberdeen by the people of the town. A boll (36 ſtone Amſterdam weight) coſts 4 s. 6 d. at the ſhip, and 2 s. 6 d. for carriage to Inverury. Another inconvenience, moſt ſenſibly felt of late by the farmers, is a ſcarcity of ſervants. Both men and women ſervants are repair-

repairing to Aberdeen, where they readily find employment in the extenſive manufactures lately eſtabliſhed there, and get high wages. The conſequence is, that ſervants wages in the country are at leaſt double of what they were a few years ago, and it is very difficult to get them at any rate.—There is an ancient Druidical temple in the pariſh, but nothing very remarkable about it. At the ſouth end of the town of Inverury, and near the confluence of the rivers, there ſtands a curious artificial mount of ſand, covered with a fine green ſward. It is called the *Baſs*. It is a truncated cone, very regular, and 40 feet of perpendicular height. Adjoining to it, on the eaſt ſide, is another about 20 feet high, but not ſo regularly ſhapen. The vulgar tradition, about this mount, is a very ſenſeleſs one. Probably it was a moot-hill, or place where courts were held for adminiſtering juſtice. A noted antiquarian, ſome years ago, when on the ſpot, pronounced it to have been ſuch, and pointed out the places where the judges and the parties ſtood.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church of Inverury was built in the year 1774, and the manſe in 1762. The ſtipend is 37 l. 10 s. Sterling, and 64 bolls of meal and bear, with a glebe of 4 acres. The Earl of Kintore is patron of the pariſh.

The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 l. Scotch, and the number of ſcholars about 40 in winter, and 30 in ſummer.

There are no parochial funds for maintenance of the poor. About 14 l. Sterling, collected in the church annually, are diſtributed by the church-ſeſſion among 12 or 14 poor people.

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF ROUSAY AND EGLISHAY.

(County of Orkney.—Preſbytery of North Iſles.—Synod of Orkney.)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES LESLIE.

Situation.

THIS pariſh is compoſed of four iſlands, Rouſay, Egliſhay, Weir, and Inhallow, and two ſmall holms or uninhabited iſlands. They are ſituated about three leagues north-weſt of the county town, Kirkwall, and lie contiguous to each other.

Rouſay,—The largeſt iſland of the pariſh, is altogether one range of hills; and the arable ground is ſeparated from the hill ground by a poor irregular earthen dyke. The hill ground is covered with heath, and contains deep moſs. It is a pleaſant iſland, and healthful, and abounds with moor game. In it are abundance of ſprings of the pureſt water, and of rivulets which iſſue from ſmall lakes, of which there are numbers in the iſland. All around the iſland is ſafe harbour for ſhipping of any burden. The ſoil is good; and might produce plentiful returns, were it well cultivated. There is a ſmall church, about five miles diſtant from the manſe, dedicated to our Lady. The number of inhabitants is,

is, in this iſland of Rouſay, 772, the youngeſt child being included.

Egliſhay.—Egliſhay is a pleaſant, low lying iſland, with a ſmall Gothic church in the weſt part of the iſland, which has been dedicated to St Magnus, the tutelar ſaint of all Orkney. It has a pyramidical ſteeple at the weſt end, and a vaulted quire at the eaſt end, which joins to the body of the church. In Egliſhay there is a ſmall lake of freſh water; and the ſoil is very good, and fit for culture; but it is poorly cultivated. There is a ſmall bay of ſhell ſand, of the beſt kind, on the weſt ſide of this iſland, and a large track of ſand on the north ſide, with much bent, and many rabbits. Sponge is caſt on ſhore in October, in great abundance, about this iſland. The number of inhabitants in this iſland of Egliſhay is 210, the youngeſt child being included.

Weir Iſland.—Weir Iſland is a ſmall low lying iſland, not ſo large as is Egliſhay. The ſoil is the ſame, and the culture very poor, and the crops unequal to what might be expected from proper management. There is a ruinous church here, and a quire, but no ſteeple; and there is the veſtiges of a fortification on a riſing ground, a little from the place where the church ſtands. There is moſs ground in a part of this iſland; and many ſeals are to be ſeen on the rocks at the weſt end of this iſland. The number of the inhabitants is 65, the youngeſt child included.

Inhallow Iſland.—Inhallow Iſland is very ſmall, but very pleaſantly ſituated, being overlooked by the hills and headlands of main land, on the ſouth, and of Rouſay, on the north. The ſoil is good, but not ſkilfully managed. The number of inhabitants is 25, the youngeſt child being included.

cluded. The whole united pariſh of Rouſay and Egliſhay includes in it 1072 perſons. In 1755, the numbers were rated at 978.

Manners.—There is no difference in manners and habits between the cottager and the maſter of the farm. The maſter often turns to cottager, and the cottager ſometimes becomes the maſter. They all take ſocial ſnuff together. Their houſes and their furniture are exactly the ſame. They all, without diſtinction, ſit at the oar in their boats; and at land they all jointly perform the ſame labour and work. Youth and old age conſtitute the only diſtinction of rank. The old often are ſo reduced, that they betake themſelves to going from houſe to houſe for ſuſtenance; and then they are well received; and it is not accounted beggary when they do ſo.

Baptiſms and Marriages.

	Baptiſms.		*Marriages.*
	Males.	*Fem.*	
In 1777,	13	28	6
1778,	11	13	7
1779,	11	10	4
1786,	17	14	4
1787,	12	14	7
1788,	18	14	5
1789,	19	20	8
1791,	10	17	8

Boats.—In Rouſay they keep 24 boats, in Egliſhay 12 boats, in Weir 6 boats, in Inhallow 2 boats, making in all 44 boats, each being about the value of 3 l. Sterling. With theſe they uſed to go to fiſh; but, for ſome years paſt, the fiſhing has failed entirely.

Cattle.

Cattle.—They plow with horſes of a ſmall ſize, which are brought from Strathnavern when two years old, and ſome Shetland horſes. Three horſes, or, at the moſt, four horſes are put into the plough. Theſe horſes are, of value, from 3 l. Sterling to 4 l. never hardly above 5 l. Sterling. There are in the pariſh upwards of 200 ploughs. There are a prodigious number of black cattle, no leſs than 2500, almoſt all cows, from which they make greaſe butter. The value of the cows may be from 2 l. to 2 l. 10 s. hardly ever 3 l. Sterling.—The ſheep in this pariſh have fine wool, and, for the moſt part, two lambs at a birth. The ſheep, when ſold, coſt 4 s. a head, or thereabout. The number of ſmall ſwine is conſiderable, as are the flocks of geeſe. The ſwine ſell for 3 s. or 4 s. and the geeſe at 1 s. There are no mice in the iſland of Inhallow, and no rats in any one of the other iſlands of the pariſh.—There is a great quantity of kelp made annually in this pariſh from May to July. The people employ themſelves at this work. There is a little woollen ſtuff made, and ſome linen, but to no amount. Theſe they trade with to Shetland, and ſell at the great annual market at Kirkwall.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF ARBROATH.

(County of Forfar.—Preſbytery of Arbroath.—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE GLEIG.

Town, &c.

ABERBROTHOCK, or Arbroath, is a royal burgh, ſituated on the diſcharge of the ſmall river of Brothock into the ſea, from whence it has its name, *Aber* implying ſuch a ſituation. In conjunction with Aberdeen, Bervie, Montroſe, and Brechin, it ſends a member to Parliament. The poſt-road from Edinburgh to Aberdeen runs through it. It is diſtant 17 miles from Dundee, and 12 from Montroſe. It is the general opinion, that it was erected into a royalty by King William the Lion about the year 1186; but this cannot be properly aſcertained, owing to the loſs of the original charter, which was taken away by force out of the Abbey of Arbroath, where it was lodged in the time of the civil wars, during the minority of James VI. by George Biſhop of Moray, called Poſtulat of Arbroath. It was, however, confirmed in all the privileges of a royal burgh, which it had formerly enjoyed, by a *novodamus* granted by James VI. in the year 1599. The town is pleaſantly ſituated within an amphitheatre of a ridge of ſmall hills, enjoying a ſouth expoſure, and having a fair and extenſive proſpect of the Lothian

thian hills, the eaſt coaſt of Fife, and the entries into the Frith of Forth, and the river Tay. The proſpect towards the north is bounded by the Grampian Hills. Few places equal it in point of ſituation. It is governed by a provoſt, two bailies, and 16 counſellors. The dean of guild and deacon convener of the trades are members of council *ex officio*. Beſides the town-clerk, there are 5 writers, who are notaries public, and 2 meſſengers at arms. The revenue of the town amounts to about 800 l. which ariſes principally from rents of land, harbour dues, town's mills, and 2 pennies Scotch on each pint of ale ſold within the royalty. There are 7 trades incorporated; ſmiths, glovers, taylors, weavers, ſhoemakers, wrights, and bakers.

Trade.—Before the year 1736, Arbroath had little or no commerce, unleſs a little traffic in fiſh, and a kind of contraband or ſmuggling trade deſerve the name. It had no manufactures; and any piece of cloth that was made was carried to Montroſe, and ſold there. It imported nothing, except now and then a ſmall cargo of wood from Norway. Flax, iron, and other commodities, were purchaſed by the inhabitants from the merchants in Montroſe and Dundee. A few years ſubſequent to that mentioned above, ſeveral gentlemen of property jointly undertook to eſtabliſh the manufacture of Oznaburghs, and other brown linens here, and to import their own materials. They laid out conſiderable ſums of money on different kinds of machinery, which were executed on a very complete and extenſive ſcale. Succeſs attended their ſpirited exertions; and, at that time, the Arbroath fabrics procured a ſuperiority, and commanded a ſale, in preference to any other of the kind, which they ſtill hold. From this eſtabliſhment, the riſe and progreſs of the trade and manufactures of Arbroath are to be dated. The principal

principal manufactures are ſail-cloth, Oznaburghs, and other brown linens. From November 1790, to November 1791, 1,055,303 yards of the two laſt were manufactured in the town and ſtamp-office diſtrict, which extends about 6 or 8 miles round the town, equal in value to 39,660 l. 6 s. 10 d. There is likewiſe yearly manufactured in the town, ſail-cloth to the ſame amount; and nearly 500 looms are employed. The greateſt part of the linen and ſail-cloth is ſhipped for London. A ſmall part is ſent to Glaſgow and Dundee. The principal imports are flax and hemp from Ruſſia, and wood and iron from Norway and Sweden. Of the two firſt, there were imported laſt year from 700 to 800 tons; and wood and iron to the value of 4000 l. A very conſiderable trade is likewiſe carried on in lime and coals. Of the former, there are unloaded at the harbour about 18,000 bolls of ſhells; and from 6000 to 8000 tons of the latter yearly. This quantity will not ſeem ſo great, when it is conſidered that this town not only ſupplies its own neighbourhood, but ſends a great quantity of coals to Forfar, Brechin, and their neighbourhood. A repeal of the coal-tax would conſiderably affect the revenue of this town, and be a loſs to individuals, who deal ſolely in the coal-trade; yet the people are not ſo ſelfiſh as to throw any obſtacle in the way of a repeal, ſo ardently deſired by their northern neighbours, nor ſo blind to their own intereſt as to ſolicit its abolition. About 18,000 bolls of barley are yearly ſhipped here, and the trades import about 3000 bolls of oat-meal.—There is a tan-yard, which employs 6 men; and hides are yearly dreſſed, to the value of 2500 l. During the late war, and ſome time prior to it, a great number of ſhoes were exported; but, ſince the peace, that trade has almoſt, if not entirely failed. A ſhort time ago, a cotton manufactory was eſtabliſhed, which employs 18 men, women, and children. Yarn is ſpun to the

value

value of 1000 l.; and 6 looms weave of calicoes to the amount of 500 l. yearly. There is alſo lately eſtabliſhed here a manufacture of particular kinds of brown linens, never attempted in this part of the country. The number of looms employed is 18. The cloth is moſtly uſed by coachmakers and upholſterers; and the proprietor has a ſhop in London for ſelling it. One of the kinds is remarkable for its thinneſs, and more properly may be termed *gauze* than linen, of which a perſon will weave 40 yards a day, though it is yard wide. The common price of this laſt is 4 d. *per* yard.—In the year 1740, a thread manufactory was eſtabliſhed, which was for many years carried on to a great extent, and turned out to good account. By it thouſands of people gained a livelihood. For ſome time paſt it has been greatly on the decline, owing to the high prices of flax, the great riſe on ſpinning, the high wages allowed to labourers in the Oznaburgh and linen manufactories, and more eſpecially to the want of a proportionable riſe of price for the thread in the London market. From theſe cauſes, the thread trade in this place may be ſaid to be turned *thread bare*. But, though it has failed, trade goes briſkly forward; and, to ſhow its increaſe, the increaſe of the imports and exports, it is only neceſſary to mention, that the harbour-dues were this year (1792) let at public roup for 293 l. excluſive of the guildry-dues, when 40 years ago they did not bring more than 70 l. guildry dues included.

Harbour.—The harbour was originally at the end of the Eaſt cauſeway, and built in the year 1194. There is yet extant an agreement between the abbot of Arbroath and the inhabitants, concerning the building of it, by which both parties were bound to contribute their proportions; but the largeſt ſhare fell to the abbot, for which he was to receive an yearly

yearly tax, payable out of every rood of land lying within the burgh. The pier was built of wood, and but ill conſtructed to defend the veſſels in ſtormy weather, from the heavy ſurges which roll on ſhore. In the year 1725, a brief was obtained for building a new one, which is ſituated a little to the weſt of the old. It is ſtrongly built of ſtone all round, ſmall, but very commodious, and ſo conſtructed that a veſſel can lie to at any part of it, either to receive or diſcharge her cargo. It is likewiſe perfectly ſafe, being contracted at the entrance to the width of 31 feet, and defended by what is called the *gates*, which are 14 or 15 ſtrong beams of wood, let down in a groove on each ſide, and locked in on the top by iron bars. Theſe beams, which are eaſily put in or taken out in 15 minutes, by means of a crane made for the purpoſe, completely break the force of the ſea, which runs into the harbour, ſo that it is *ſida ſtatio carinis*. It is always dry at low water; but has a ſluice on the north ſide, by which the water of Brothock is admitted, when it is thought neceſſary to clean it. At ſpring tides there is, at its entrance, a depth of 15 or 16 feet; and at neep tides, of 9 or 10 feet water.

In the year 1781, there belonged to this harbour no more than 17 or 18 veſſels, making all together only about 900 tons; now there are 32 veſſels, making 1704 tons, which employ about 160 ſeamen. There are beſides two veſſels on the ſtocks, together above 150 tons.

To this harbour belong alſo 3 fiſhing boats, beſides the pilot boats, which employ 14 fiſhermen; but theſe depend upon a living more on what they make by pilotage, than on what they can earn in the fiſhing trade, which has moſtly failed *.

Soil

* During the late war, in the year 1781, the ſhipping on this coaſt was much annoyed by a French privateer, named the Fearnought of Dunkirk, commanded by one Fall. On the evening

Soil and Produce.—The ſoil is various. On the northren extremity it is a thin muiriſh ſoil, with a clay bottom; about the

evening of the 23d of May, he came to anchor in the Bay, and fired a few ſhot into the town; after which ſalute, he ſent a flag of truce on ſhore, with the following letter:

"*At ſea, May twenty-third.*

"Gentlemen, I ſend theſe two words to inform you, that "I will have you to bring to the French colour, in leſs "than a quarter of an hour, or I ſet the town on fire directly; "ſuch is the order of my maſter the King of France I am ſent "by. Send directly the mair and chiefs of the town to make "ſome agreement with me, or I'll make my duty. It is the "will of yours.

"To Monſſieurs Mair of the town called Arbrought, or in "his abſence, to the chief man after him in Scotland."

The Magiſtrates, wiſhing to gain time to arm the inhabitants, and ſend expreſſes to the neighbouring towns for military, gave an evaſive anſwer to this letter, intimating, that he had mentioned no terms of ranſom, and begging he would do no injury to the town, till he ſhould hear from them again. Upon this Fall wrote a ſecond letter, which is as follows:

"*At Sea, eigth o cloc in the afternoon.*

"Gentlemen, I received juſt now your anſwer, by which you "ſay I aſk no terms. I thought it was uſeleſs, ſince I aſked you "to come aboard for agreement. But here are my terms; I "will have 30,000l. Sterling at leaſt, and 6 of the chiefs men "of the town for otage. Be ſpeedy, or I ſhoot your town away "directly, and I ſet fire to it. I am, Gentlemen, your ſervant.

"I ſent ſome of my crew to you; but if ſome harm happens "to them, you'll be ſure will hang up the main-yard all the "preſeners we have aboard.

"To Monſieurs the chiefs men of Arbrought in Scotland."

The magiſtrates, before ſending a return to this letter, having got ſome of the inhabitants armed, and ſome military from Montroſe, ſet Fall at defiance, and ordered him to do his worſt, for they would not give him a farthing. Terribly enraged, and no doubt greatly diſappointed, he began a heavy fire upon the town, and continued it for a long time; but happily it did no harm, except knocking down ſome chimney tops, and burning the fingers of thoſe who took up his balls, which were heated. On the 24th he ſent a third letter on ſhore, by ſome of our own people, whom he had captured at ſea. It runs thus:

the middle it is black loam; and hard on the ſhore, the ground is light and ſandy. The whole has been much improved of late, and it produces excellent crops of wheat, oats, barley, peaſe, rye-graſs, turnip, potatoes, &c. About 27 years ago, the magiſtrates planted 110 acres of muir with Scotch firs, which are thriving very well, and in a ſhort time will bring a conſiderable addition to the revenue of the town. —The coaſt is flat and rocky, and, from the rocks, ſea-weed is cut every third year, for the purpoſe of making kelp. The quantity made is very inconſiderable, and the emolument thence ariſing to the town not worth the mentioning.

Population.

At Sea, May 24th.

"Gentlemen, See whether you will come to ſome terms with "me, or I come in preſently with my cutter into the arbour, "and I will caſt down the town all over. Make haſte, becauſe "I have no time to ſpare. I give you a quarter of an hour for "your deciſion, and after I'll make my duty. I think it would "be better for you, Gentlemen, to come ſome you aboard pre- "ſently, to ſettle the affairs of your town. You'll ſure no to "be hurt. I give you my parole of honor. I am your," &c.

To this letter the magiſtrates ſent a verbal meſſage to Fall, that they would be glad to ſee him on ſhore, and hoiſted a flag of defiance on the Ballaſt Hill. Finding his threats to be in vain, after firing ſome few ineffectual ſhot, he weighed anchor, and ſailed in purſuit of ſome ſloops which came into the offing, which he captured, but did not return.

To prevent all inſults of this kind, from ſo mean an enemy, for the future, a battery was propoſed to be built. A ſubſcription was opened for this purpoſe, which was ſoon filled up. Government was applied to, and Captain Andrew Fraſer was ſent down to plan the work, which was quickly finiſhed. The battery, mounting 6 12 pounders, is built ſomewhat in the form of a half-moon, of ſtone and lime, and faced with large banks of ſods. The platform is paved with ſtone, and below it there are vaults bomb proof, for keeping powder and ſhot, with other neceſſaries. It is built on the Ballaſt Hill, between the harbour and the ſea, and has a compleat command of the Bay, ſo that now no Fall, with his Fearnought, dare inſult Arbroath with impunity.

Population, &c.—In the year 1755, the numbers were 2098. In the year 1776, the number of ſouls in the pariſh amounted to 3943; the total amount this year, (1792), in town and country, is 4676, of which there are, in the country, 131, and 4545 in town. But to gain a complete liſt of the number of people in the town of Arbroath, we muſt add the number of ſouls in that part of it belonging to the pariſh of St. Vigeans, which is 638, and then the number of ſouls in the town is exactly 5183.

In this pariſh there are 517 females more than males. An exact regiſter of births and deaths has not hitherto been kept: For the year 1791, it ſtood as follows:

			Total.
Baptiſms,	61 males.	53 females.	114
Deaths,	21	47	110
Marriages,	48 both parties in par.	20 one party out of pariſh	68

For ſome years paſt the town has increaſed conſiderably. Laſt year 30 houſes were built, many of them of conſiderable value; and this year there is much about the ſame number, though not of equal value. This increaſe is no doubt owing to our manufactures; and from the aſpect which they at preſent wear, there is every reaſon to look for a rapid increaſe of population, and conſequently of buildings.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—Arbroath, which formerly belonged to the pariſh of St Vigeans, was erected into a parochial charge about the year 1560. Beſides the eſtabliſhed church there are meetings both of Engliſh and Scotch Epiſcopalians, Antiburgher Seceders, and Independents; and in the ſuburbs belonging to St Vigeans pariſh there is a meeting-houſe, the property of the Methodiſts. The church is built in the ſouth-weſt corner of the Abbey ground, and the tower ſerves for a bell ſteeple. It was repaired and enlarged about thirty years

years ago, and fitted up in a very neat and commodious manner, capable to contain from 1800 to 2000 people. It is now rather ſmall for the congregation, and it will be ſoon neceſſary to have another, or a chapel of eaſe. The right of patronage formerly belonged to the Earl of Panmure, but fell to the Crown by forfeiture in the year 1715. The ſtipend is 6 bolls of wheat, 22 bolls 2 firlots 3 pecks and 1 lippie of barley, 23 bolls 2 firlots and 2 pecks of meal, and 54 l. 8 s. 10 d. including the rent for the church-yard graſs, 4 l. 3 s. 4 d. for communion elements, and 4 l. 8 s. 11 d. for houſe-rent. There is neither manſe nor glebe.—A ſorry ſtipend for ſo large a place. Arbroath is a ſingle charge, but the miniſter has an ordained aſſiſtant who acts the part of a colleague. His ſtipend ariſes in part from the intereſt of 565 l. mortified by a Convener Mill for that purpoſe; and ſome gentlemen in the town have bound themſelves to make it at leaſt equal to 50 l.

School.—There is only one eſtabliſhed ſchool, which was built about 20 years ago. It is ſpacious, and in every reſpect well ſituated, fit to accommodate with eaſe 120 ſcholars. There is only one maſter and an aſſiſtant. The maſter's ſalary which is paid by the town is 10 l. and the emoluments ariſing to him from being ſeſſion-clerk and precentor in the church may amount to about 12 l. The number of ſcholars for 26 years paſt has been between 70 and 80. The ſchool-fees are 2 s. 6 d. for each ſcholar *per* quarter, and have been the ſame for more than 30 years; of which the maſter receives 1 s. 6 d. and the aſſiſtant 1 s. The aſſiſtant has 9 l. 2 s. 2 d. as ſalary, of which the town pays 5 l. and the reſt is paid by the kirk-ſeſſion. The branches of education taught are Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, Euclid's elements, menſuration, geography, navigation, Latin, Greek, and French, but the

the two laſt are ſeldom required. There are likewiſe two or three private ſchools, one of which is ſupported by a number of the principal inhabitants of the town, who give the maſter 36 l. *per annum* for teaching 36 ſcholars.

Poor.—The funds for the ſupport of the poor ariſe from rents of land, mort-cloths, ſeats in the church, marriages, legacies, and collections at the church-door. There are diſtributed yearly among them, about Martinmas, between 70 and 80 bolls of coals. The weekly penſioners receive among them 16 s. *per* week; and about 16 l. or 17 l. are divided among the poor at the ſacrament; beſides, they receive occaſionally as circumſtances require. The diſtribution, *communibus annis*, is about 130 l. The number of poor is about 120. There is alſo a fund for the ſupport of ſeven poor widows of ſhipmaſters left by John Carmichael ſhipmaſter, about 60 years ago, in money, houſes, and land. This charity is not confined to Arbroath, but extends to Montroſe and Dundee. Widows of the names of Carmichael, Pearſon, and Strachan, have a preferable claim, and after them, widows whoſe huſbands have been of any of the preceding names. None can be admitted upon this charity who do not live nine months in the year in Arbroath, or whoſe yearly income amounts to a ſum equal to that which they can receive from the fund.—An improper behaviour alſo excludes from the benefit of this charity.

This fund is under the direction of the magiſtrates, miniſter, kirk-treaſurer, and boxmaſter to the fraternity of ſeamen in Arbroath; and by the care and attention of the managers, it has increaſed conſiderably for ſome years paſt, ſo that each of the widows inſtead of 5 l. or 6 l. which they formerly received, now draw above 13 l. yearly.

Climate,

Climate, &c.—The air is dry and ſalubrious.—The people in general healthy. About 20 years ago, intermittent fevers were very prevalent, particularly during the ſpring months; but ſince the lands in the neighbourhood, in conſequence of a keen ſpirit for agriculture, have been drained of their exuberant latent moiſture, the diſeaſe has totally diſappeared. Continued fevers, which uſed rarely to occur, have been more frequent within theſe laſt two years; they are of a type between the nervous and inflammatory, and ſeldom prove fatal. They probably owe their exiſtence to our winters having been uncommonly open and moiſt. Comparatively ſpeaking, Arbroath is a remarkably healthy place, and the people live to a good old age. There are many of 70 and 80, and a few conſiderably above 90 years. I know five perſons whoſe ages added together make 476; one of theſe is an old woman aged 97, yet ſtrong and healthy, who never drank a dram. Another of them is an old man aged 96, whoſe wife, not included in the above number, is 85.—She is the man's third wife, and he is her third huſband. Prejudices againſt inoculation for the ſmall pox are almoſt entirely eradicated.

Mineral Spring.—About a quarter of a mile to the weſtward of the town, in a high ground called the Common, there is one of the ſtrongeſt Spaws, or Chalybeate ſprings, in Scotland. It is much frequented by people affected with ſcrophula, nervous, and ſtomachic diſorders, and other diſeaſes ariſing from relaxation of the habit; and in numberleſs caſes, the medical practitioners are obliged to acknowledge the ſuperior effect of the water, as a corroborant to any remedy they can preſcribe. Probably this ſpring would be more frequented, if there were ſome attention paid to the well, and proper accommodations for the reception of its viſitors. An inducement to the invalid to repair to this place, is

is the opportunity of ſea-bathing, which is the pureſt exerciſe of health, and perhaps does no leſs good, than the incredibly large gulps of water, which many in faith of its healing powers, force themſelves to ſwallow.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—A common labourer receives from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. *per* day. The wages of a journeyman ſmith are from 5 l. to 7 l. a-year, with his victuals. A ſhoemaker will earn from 6 s. to 8 s.—a houſe carpenter about 8 s.—a maſon 10 s.—a ſlater 12 s.—and a weaver from 7 s. to 10 s. *per* week. A gardener has 1 s. 3 d. *per* day. The wages of a baker are much the ſame with the ſmiths; and a taylor receives from 6 d. to 8 d. *per* day, with his victuals. The common wages of a ſervant-maid is 3 l.; ſome receive 3 l. 10 s. and ſome 4 l. *per annum.*

Beef, mutton, lamb, veal, and pork, are ſold at from 3½ d. to 5 d. *per lib.*—Butter from 8 d. to 11 d. *per lib.* which is 24 ounces.—Cheeſe, 5 s. *per* ſtone.—Eggs from 3½ to 4 d. *per* dozen.—Fowls from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. *per* pair.—Oat-meal ſold this year for 15 s. 6 d.—Wheat for 1 l. 1 s.—and barley from 17 s. to 18 s. *per* boll.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The town is well ſupplied with butcher meat; and nearly 500 head of black cattle, and 350 calves, beſides ſheep, lambs, and ſwine, are ſlaughtered at the ſhambles. Formerly, fiſh were plenty, now they are ſcarce, and conſequently very dear. The coaſt being rocky, we have plenty of crabs and lobſters, which find a ready market; but the greateſt part of the latter is ſent to London; and it is ſaid, that the fiſhermen laſt year drew no leſs than 80 l. for lobſters ſent thither. About the ſummer markets, boats loaded with dry fiſh, ſuch as cod, ling, ſkate, &c. come

come to us from Peterhead, and other ſmall fiſhing towns in the north country. The country people buy the greateſt part of them, and ſome of the Arbroath merchants buy of them to ſell to their cuſtomers. It is ſuppoſed, that this year there was ſold in the harbour, dry fiſh to the value of 1000l.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF ST QUIVOX.

(County of Ayr.—Preſbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr M'QUAE.

Extent and Soil.

THE pariſh of St Quivox contains about 3500 acres of land, all of which is arable, except ſome part of the banks of the river of Ayr, which are ſteep, and covered with natural wood or plantations. The ſoil is various; neareſt to the ſea it is ſandy—a ſmall part of it is a light gravelly ſoil, with a dry bottom: Towards the eaſt it is more clayey; and in general has a hard bottom of till or rotten rock, which makes the uneven ſurface ſtratum, ſpringy, and wet. There are about 100 acres of meadow land; a part of which is much injured by the overflowing of a ſmall rivulet, that is ſtopped in its courſe by a mill-dam. There are likewiſe about 100 acres of wood and plantations. The whole pariſh has been incloſed with hedge and ditch within the laſt 30 or 40 years, and in general the hedges are in a thriving condition.

Population.—In 1755, the population was 499. In the country part of the pariſh there are at preſent 96 families, which contain 490 ſouls of all ages. There are two excel-

lent modern built manſion-houſes, pleaſantly ſituated on the banks of the river; the one belonging to Mr Oſwald of Auchencruive, and the other to Mr Campbell of Craigie, who reſide in them occaſionally. Two-thirds of the pariſh are the property of Mr Oſwald, and the other third is divided among 7 different heritors. Three of theſe farm their own property. Thirty families live by farming; 4 blackſmiths, 4 maſons, 5 colliers, 4 houſe-carpenters, 3 weavers; the remaining 43 are labourers, or poor, or employed in different ways about the collieries.

Married pairs, - -	81
Widows, - - -	8
Bachelors, - -	5
Widowers, - - -	2
	96

There are 5 married men above 80 years of age, all poor, except one; and their wives above 70, except one.

Males.		*Females.*	
Above 80	5	Above 70	4
—— 60	12	—— 60	12
—— 50	17	—— 50	22
—— 40	28	—— 40	26
—— 30	22	—— 30	31
—— 20	36	—— 20	53
—— 10	41	—— 10	38
Under 10	76	Under 10	67
	237		253
	253		
Total,	490		

Rent

Rent and Produce.—The lands are ſet from 12 s. to 40s. an acre, and even ſome ſo high as 3 l.; but the average of the whole pariſh is about 20 s. an acre. There are in the pariſh about 132 horſes, - value L. 1475

350 milch cows,	-	2000
200 young cattle, at 2 l.	-	400
200 fat cattle, at 5 l.	-	1000
104 carts, at 4 l.	- -	416

None of the farmers keep a regular ſtock of ſheep on account of their hedges. A few are bought in occaſionally to be fattened for the butcher, and a few of Engliſh breed are kept as pets.—Theſe together may be valued at 50 l. The annual produce of a milch cow, beſides her calf, is from 3 l. to 4 l. the average 3 l. 10 s.—Butter, 9 d. *per* lib. of 24 ounces; and cheeſe, from 2½ d. to 6 d. the ſame weight.

Agriculture.—As to agriculture, the general practice is to plough the land for 3 years, and lay it out into graſs for 6; after which, it is again plowed for 3 years, and ſo on during the tack. Lands are commonly let for 19 years; and the above courſe of management is ſpecified in the tacks; however, a better rotation of crops is ſometimes followed. 1ſt, Potatoes with dung, or (though ſeldom) turnips. 2d, Barley with red clover, 10 or 12 lib. to the acre. 3d, Red clover. 4th, Oats. Then, 5th, Potatoes with dung, and ſo on as before. This is found to be a good plan on dry land. But the ſtaple articles with the farmers here are oats and bear. Small patches only are ſown with wheat, peaſe, beans, and barley. Lime is univerſally uſed as a manure; it is laid upon the graſs a year or two before the field is to be plowed; the quantity about 100 bolls *per* acre; that is, 200 Winchester buſhels of unſlacked lime, which commonly yield 400 buſhels of ſlacked lime. Sometimes it is laid upon a fallow,

but

but ſeldom. Lime coſts 5 d. *per* boll, and the carriage 4 d.; the kilns being 6 or 7 miles diſtant. Hence, at the rate of 100 bolls *per* acre, it coſts the farmers 31. 15 s. They ſow, for two ſucceſſive years, 6 or 7 Wincheſter buſhels of oats *per* acre, in the month of April, and reap from 4 to 10 bolls, in the month of September or October. The third year, the whole dung of the farm is applied as far as it will go, for bear, of which they ſow 4 buſhels *per* acre, and reap from 4 to 7 bolls. Along with the bear, they ſow 3 buſhels of rye-graſs ſeed, 8 lib. of red clover, and 5 or 6 lib. of white clover. The crop of hay is ſometimes 200 ſtone, 24 lib. to the ſtone, each acre; but more frequently does not exceed 100 ſtone. It is uſually cut for 2 years; then paſtured for 4; after which it is plowed for oats.

Wages.—Men ſervants receive from 61. to 81. a year of wages. Women ſervants from 31. to 41. a year; but they are commonly hired for half a year only. A labourer receives a ſhilling a day; for mowing hay, 18 d.; a maſon, 20 d.—The farmers plough with 4, or 3 horſes with a driver, or with 2 horſes without a driver, as they think the nature of their ſoil requires; but moſt generally with 3 horſes and a driver. The plough moſt in uſe is the Scotch plough, with a curved mould-board.—The price of all ſorts of proviſions is fixed by the markets at Ayr.

Wallacetown.—About 30 years ago, the late Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie began to feu houſes and gardens from the north end of the old bridge at Ayr. At that time, there were not above 8 or 10 ſtraggling houſes about the Bridge-end; and now, in 1792, by a gradual increaſe, there are 250 families living in Wallacetown, ſo named after its founder.

This

This increaſe of inhabitants has been owing, 1ſt, to the extenſive collieries which have been wrought on the Blackhouſe eſtate in this pariſh, and on the lands belonging to the community of Newton adjoining to it. 2d, Many farmers advanced in life, or unwilling to take their farms at a high additional rent, find houſes in Wallacetown, to which they carried their capital, and became dealers in grain, meal, malt, &c. 3d, Mechanics of all ſorts flocked into it, and feued houſes, or rented thoſe that were built by others, with a view to profit. They are here exempted from the laws or regulations of the incorporated trades in the adjoining royal burgh of Ayr. 4th, A conſiderable number from Ireland and the Weſt Highlands ſettled here, as weavers, day-labourers, &c. becauſe they could get higher wages than at home. It is a conſiderable diſadvantage to this populous and thriving town, that there are no eſtabliſhed magiſtrates reſiding in it; an evil which is the leſs likely to be ſoon remedied, as the preſent ſuperior of Wallacetown reſides at a diſtance, and has little more connection with it than to uplift the feu-duties. The attention and activity of the magiſtrates in Ayr and Newton to preſerve good order in their towns, often drives diſorderly people, and vagrants of different deſcriptions, into Wallacetown. By the activity of ſome of the principal inhabitants, who, from regard to peace and good order, officiate as conſtables, this evil has been in ſome degree checked; and the managers of the collieries have much merit in their attention to the morals of the people employed by them. When it is conſidered, that the inhabitants are a mixture of Engliſh, Iriſh, and Highlanders, with the original feuers, who were natives of the county of Ayr, it will be found that there is as much peace and decency of behaviour among them as can well be expected. They are 3 miles diſtant from the pariſh church, in which they have no ſeats; but have good

opportunity

opportunity of attending public worship at the church of Newton, which is built at the west end of one of their streets, or at the Seceding meeting-house, which stands at the east end of it.

Population of Wallacetown.—The town contains 250 families, in all 960 souls, 187 married pairs, 38 widows, 8 widowers, 7 bachelors, 10 unmarried women that keep house.

Above 70 years of age,	7 males.	4 females.
—— 60 ——	29	39
—— 50 ——	41	49
—— 40 ——	58	52
—— 30 ——	65	72
—— 20 ——	51	74
—— 10 ——	99	72
Under 10 ——	129	119
	479 males.	481 females.
	481	
Total,	960	

Religion.—There is one Antiburgher Seceding minister. Four families in the country part of the parish, and 20 families in Wallacetown, belong to this congregation. Three Burghers, 3 Moravians, 3 Methodists, and 10 of the Church of England. All the rest are of the established Church.

Baptisms.—The register of baptisms for the whole parish is regularly kept, and also the register of marriages; but as many, from adjoining parishes, have burial places in the church-yard of St. Quivox, and some are buried at the Seceding meeting-house, no exact information can be given concerning

cerning the number of deaths. For the laſt 8 years, there have been baptized, in

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Married.*
1784	24	19	43	7 pair.
1785	33	23	56	10
1786	16	14	30	9
1787	31	16	47	16
1788	20	13	33	14
1789	26	24	50	10
1790	13	18	31	19
1791	21	16	37	13
	184	143	327	98

The average is 23 males, and nearly 18 females born annually, and about 12 couple married.

Church, School, and Poor.—The ſtipend is, 96 bolls of meal, at 13 s. 4 d. - - - L. 64 0 0
20 bolls of bear, at 18 s. - - - 18 0 0
In money, - - - - - 11 8 0

L. 93 8 0

Augmented in 1787, with the unanimous conſent of the heritors, by 25 l. and 2 l. 10 s. for communion elements, - - - 27 10 0

L. 120 18 0

The church was repaired in 1767, uniformly ſeated, and plaiſtered by the heritors; and a new aile built by the patron, Mr Oſwald of Auchencruive. There are about 20 on the poor's liſt, who receive only 2 s. each *per* month; and even this ſmall allowance could not be afforded them from the weekly collections in the church, but the kirk-ſeſſion has received, in

in donations and legacies, during the laſt 10 years, above 100 l. which they diſtributed among the poor.

Day-labourers live comfortably upon 1 s. a day; all of them in the country, and many in town, having ſmall patches of potatoe ground, which is of great uſe to their families, and almoſt without exception, their children are taught to read and write. The pariſh ſchoolmaſter is well qualified to teach theſe branches and arithmetic. His ſalary is about 12 l. a year; ſchool wages, 18 d. *per* quarter, and his whole income may be about 24 l. beſides a good houſe and garden. The houſe and ſchool-houſe were built within theſe 6 years.

Total population of the pariſh:

In the country,	96 families,	490 ſouls.	
In Wallacetown,	250 families,	960 ſouls.	
	346	) 1450 (4	
		1384	
		66	
Population in 1755,			499
Increaſe,			951
			1450

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF CABRACH.

(County of Banff.—Preſbytery of Alford.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES GORDON.

Name.

THE name is derived from the Gaelic language, and ſignifies *the Timber Moſs*: Accordingly, the pariſh is full of moſs and fir. Every place within the bounds, except ſuch as are new, has a name of Gaelic extract.

Boundaries, Extent, &c.—Cabrach is 30 miles diſtant from the county town, viz. Aberdeen, and ſurrounded by a range of hills, not very high, covered with heath. The length of this pariſh, at a medium, from ſouth to north, is 5 miles; the breadth, from eaſt to weſt, 3 miles, (all computed).

Climate, Soil, Produce, &c.—In ſummer the climate is pleaſant enough; and, for the benefit of goats milk, is reſorted to from the low country by many of weak conſtitutions, or labouring under conſumption, for whoſe accommodation there are 4 goat whey quarters. In winter, the froſts are more intenſe, and ſnow lies deeper and longer here, than in ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes; but from this the natives feel no inconvenience: They have an inexhauſtible moſs at their

doors, and depend not more for ſubſiſtence on the produce of their fields, than on the profits of a traffic they carry on in ſheep and black cattle. The ſoil is wet, and full of ſwamps, productive enough in provender for cattle; but owing to the froſt, miſts, and hoar froſt in autumn, the annual produce of grain does not exceed the conſumpt of the inhabitants.

The farmers ſow bear and birley oats only; and theſe in the upper parts of the pariſh are always more or leſs affected by the froſts, in ſo much that if the ſeaſon has not been extremely favourable, they never depend on their own bear, and but ſeldom on their birley oats for ſeed.

Sometimes one half of a field is froſted, and the other ſafe; and what is ſtill more extraordinary, the upper half of the ear has been found to be affected, while the lower was ſafe. Daily experience evinces, that the corns on the heights and eminences, run leſs riſk than thoſe on flat low grounds. For the moſt part they begin to ſow in the end of March, and reap in September and October. Potatoes are the moſt uncertain of their crops. Turnips thrive; but for want of incloſures through the whole pariſh, experiments are not tried on a large ſcale. Clover and rye-graſs have been ſown in yards with ſucceſs; cabbages are common.

Agriculture and Employments.—The mode of culture is perhaps the ſame at this day which it was a century ago. The plough in uſe is the old Scotch, drawn by 6, 8, or 10 oxen, or cows and oxen, or horſes and oxen together. The dung is, in a great meaſure, carried out in creels, on the horſes ſides, a method by which there is a great waſte of time that might be gained, 3 of theſe loads being only equal to one of a cart.

Men and women are employed, and as ſoon as the ſeed time is done, the plough and harrow are laid aſide; the farmers

mers mind little elſe but their cattle; the women, beſides their ordinary domeſtic affairs, are employed in providing coarſe cloths for the family, and ſpinning linen yarn to the manufactories.

Nevertheleſs, with all theſe peculiarities of climate and cuſtoms, the tenants, eſpecially within the four hills of Cabrach, are in good circumſtances enough for their rank, and are thriving. Nature ſeems to have intended the country more for paſturage than agriculture; aware of this, the inhabitants pay their attention chiefly to ſheep and black cattle. Early in the ſpring, they ſtock their little farms with the former, and, about Whitſunday, with the latter. During the courſe of the ſummer, they are ever buying and ſelling at home and in markets. About the end of Auguſt, they clear their towns, if the ſale is briſk, of all except as many as they have provender to ſupport in the winter: If the market has been bad, they keep more than their uſual number, and buy corn and ſtraw for them in the neighbouring pariſhes.—By theſe means they ſeldom meet with much loſs, nor indeed can it ever be great; their ſtocks are ſmall, and the circle of their trade but narrow, of courſe, the little ſpeculation that is here, depending merely upon the appearance of a good graſs crop, or a demand from the ſouth, is ſeldom attended with bad conſequences, even if the crop ſhould happen to be ſhort. Accordingly, one year with another, they replace the capitals employed in this trade, with a ſmall profit, deducting all charges.

Eſtimate of Black Cattle, &c.

Black cattle bought and ſold, about - -	L. 500
Kept in winter on each farm, - - -	30
Sheep bought and ſold, - - - -	2000
Kept in winter, - - - - -	1000

Horſes

Horſes in the pariſh, all ſmall, - - - 335
Black cattle, taken to hill paſture annually, at 2 s. each, 350
Black cattle, taken to infield graſs, at 5 s. Sterling each, 200

Quarries.—Thoſe who reſide in the northern parts, contiguous to Mortlach, burn and ſell annually about 4000 bolls of lime, at 6 d. *per* boll; two firlots Aberdeen meaſure make a boll. Lime is little uſed here as a manure, on the ſuppoſition that it turns the crop late. It is preſumed, however, that in ſome parts it would be attended with advantage.

Beſides great numbers of lime-ſtone quarries, there is a ſlate quarry, of a light grey colour on the Hill of the Bank; there being little demand for the ſlates, the quarry is not in leaſe. They are not ſold, but given *gratis*.

Forreſts.—The banks of the river Dovern, about half a century ago, were covered with birch, although, ſince the ſale of it, there is not a plant of wood to be ſeen there, or in any part of the pariſh, except in Glen-Feddich, where there are ſome old trees, and on the burn of Bank, where there are ſome young buſhes. The Feddick, which runs into the Spey, between Aberlour and Boharn, riſes between Cabrach and Glenlivet, and runs into Mortlach. On its banks the Duke of Gordon has a houſe for a hunting ſeat in a beautiful romantic ſpot, but within the pariſh of Mortlach. He has another farther up on the Black-water, in the ſame pariſh. The foreſts of Gleneddich and Black-water are ſtored with red deer and roes; the hills all around, with innumerable flocks of muir-fowl. Here there are partridges, hares, foxes, otters, wild ducks, and black cocks. The migratory birds are the ſwallow, the plover, and cuckow, who appear about the middle of April.

Church,

Church, School, and Poor.—The miniſter's ſtipend is 45 l. Sterling, and the ſervices; beſides 2 l. 15 l. 6½ d. Sterling for communion element money; with a glebe of 19 acres arable, and 2 of paſture ground. The parochial ſchool ſalary is 5 l. 11 s. 1½ d. Sterling. The charity ſchool was taken away from Dovernſide in 1779, a want which the people there feel much. To remedy this in ſome degree, they hire a country man to teach their children to read and write in winter; the only time they can diſpenſe with them from herding their cattle.—The number of poor on the roll who receive occaſional ſupply are 12. The weekly contributions amount annually to 2 l. Sterling, beſides a fund of 50 l. Sterling at intereſt, under the management of the heritors and kirk-ſeſſion.

Religion, Sectaries, &c.—Beſides the eſtabliſhed Church, there are two chapels; one for Papiſts, who are not half the number that they were 30 years ago, and one for Seceders, who are much on the decline. One great reaſon for the decline of both ſects, is the moderation with which they are treated all over this country. Intermarriages with Proteſtant families have been frequently obſerved to bring over Papiſts, eſpecially the female part, from their former perſuaſion.

Character, Diſeaſes, &c.—The inhabitants, whoſe ordinary ſize is 5 feet 10 inches, though variable from 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet, are induſtrious, ſober, and healthy; live much better, are neater and cleanlier in their dreſſes and dwellings than their predeceſſors were ſome generations ago, when men and beaſts lay under the ſame roof. They all read and write; are intelligent in the ordinary and even ſome of the leſs common affairs of life, beyond what could be expected from their opportunities, and of an obliging diſpoſition. Notwithſtanding

ſtanding the temptations inſeparable from the ſpecies of traffic they are conſtantly engaged in, in the cattle markets, they are not addicted to drinking.—However unaccountable, in ſuch a place, the want of inns and alehouſes may be, *there is not one in the pariſh*; a circumſtance perhaps not unfriendly to health and morals; nor are the inconveniencies attending it felt by travellers, becauſe of the hoſpitality of the people. With all the neceſſaries, and ſome of the conveniencies of life, they live happy and content at home. They are not in general litigious; nor are law-ſuits frequent, which is a conſequence of their honeſty in dealings. That the natives of a place full of moſſes, and interſperſed with ſwampy ground, ſhould be healthy, and ſubject to no local diſtemper, may appear a little problematical; yet, excepting a few fevers, which are by no means frequent or fatal, the hooping cough, meaſles, and ſmall-pox in the natural way, are the only diſeaſes known here. The moſt common diſeaſe of which they die is old age. Of late, the conſumption has appeared in 4 inſtances; in each of them fatal, excepting one caſe. Thoſe who died of it were attacked when at ſervice in other countries. It is not pretended to account for the healthineſs of the people. Perhaps the great fires conſtantly burning in their houſes, have conſiderable influence in counteracting the effects of the exhalations which are continually riſing from the earth. Strangers, not accuſtomed to them, catch cold.

Valued Rent, Servants Wages, &c.—The valued rent in this pariſh is 1290 l. 2 s. 10 d. Scotch.

Men ſervants gain yearly about (Sterling) -	L.	5	5 0
Women ditto - - - -		2	10 0
Geeſe are ſold at - - - -		0	2 6
Hens are ſold at - - - -		0	0 6
Butter *per* lib. - - - - -		0	0 6
Cheeſe *per* quarter - - - -		0	1 0

The

The ſervices which uſed to be paid to the principal tackſman were happily done away when the preſent leaſes were given by the Duke of Gordon, by getting tacks immediately from himſelf; the beſt thing he could have done to this country.

Population, &c.—The number in 1755 was 960.

Within the pariſh are, above 8 years of age, catechiſeable, - - - - - -	550
Children below 8 years of age, - - -	150
	700

Each marriage, at an average, produces 4 children.

Remarks.—The number of inhabitants has decreaſed about 200 ſince 1782 and 1783; at which period the houſeholders or crofters were driven in queſt of ſubſiſtence to other countries and towns, where manufactures are carried on.—The upper part of the pariſh in Aberdeenſhire ſeldom produces ſufficiency of grain for itſelf. The lower part of the pariſh in Banffſhire produces ſufficiency of grain for itſelf, and diſpoſes of about 200 bolls, which would make up the deficiency in the upper part, was it not diſpoſed of to the neighbouring diſtilleries. The defect is made up from other places. The ſtate of the inhabitants then, (in 1782) when few places hereabout had enough for themſelves, may be learned from this circumſtance, that the *mill multures* of Cabrach amounted to a ninth part only of what they are in ordinary years; yet, by means of the indulgence of the Duke of Gordon, who allowed them to detain their rents for buying meal, and ſupporting their families, till they were able to pay without hurting them, and the ſpirited exertions of individuals, particularly John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, who imported grain of different kinds for a ſubſiſtence to the indigent poor, which he

he gave to this and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, no body ſuffered for want; but their circumſtances were much impaired; there was no demand for cattle. Meal was ſold at 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s. *per* peck, 9 lib. Servants ſuffered moſt; for every body reduced their numbers; and day-labourers got little if any employment.

So early as the 15th September 1782, there was a great fall of ſnow, which laid all the corns, then hardly begun to fill, in moſt places. The froſts were often intenſe, and vegetation was ſtopt here.

The corns which had milky juices in the ear were totally ruined; thoſe which had only watery juices wanted ſeaſon; there were none of them perfectly full or ripe. They were therefore given moſtly unthreſhed to the cattle. It was after Chriſtmas before they were all cut. The meal made of what was threſhed was bad. To ſome it may appear trivial, to others worthy to be remarked, that, in ſpring 1783, cows had calves much earlier, and in greater numbers, than was ever remembered; a fortunate circumſtance, in a year when the victual of home produce was exceſſively bad, and in a place where milk is a conſtituent part of ordinary fare. It was obſerved, too, very truly, as to this pariſh, that there was leſs ſickneſs that year than uſual; a fact which the curious will, no doubt, trace up to ſeveral cauſes.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF BANCHORY TARNAN.

(County of Kincardine.—Preſbytery of Kincardine o' Niel.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr FRANCIS DOUNEY.

Name.

THE laſt part of the name is that of a ſaint; hence one of two annual fairs, held near by, is called St Tarnan's market, and a ſmall fountain not far diſtant is called St Tarnan's well.

Banchor is ſaid to ſignify fair or goodly choir; and, it is conjectured, that in ſome remote period, there has been a kind of ſeminary of the clergy eſtabliſhed at this place, by one of the above name.

Extent.—It is of very unequal ſurface; few level fields of great extent; and the whole interſperſed with much muir ground covered with heath, and many ſmall, and ſome pretty large hills. It contains 15,040 Scots acres, being 19,125 Engliſh. The rent is about 1800 l. Sterling, beſides 200 l. annually, ariſing from the ſale of birch and fir wood The valued rent is 3450 l. Scots.

Population.—The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 1736 ſouls. In June 1791, there were of inhabitants, above ſeven years of age, 1150; below ſeven, 190.—In all, 1340. In the year 1761, there were in all 1580; decreaſe, 240, which is accounted for by the emigration of work people to the manufactories about Aberdeen; by ſome of the heritors taking large farms into their own management; by a few of the tenants not chooſing to have any ſubtenants; and by a very uncommon mortality which prevailed in winter 1789 and 1790. For ſeveral years immediately ſubſequent to 1761, the number of people increaſed greatly, and it is only within the laſt 14 or 16 years, that the decreaſe has taken place. There are at preſent 260 inhabited houſes, fewer by 60 than in 1761.

Agriculture and Stock.—In the year 1758, there were but two carts in the pariſh, now 120. Horſes about 260; ſheep, 3250; black cattle, 1300; but have not been exactly numbered. The ſheep are of a ſmall ſize; and have much decreaſed in number in the courſe of the laſt 50 years, partly owing to the inability of farmers to ſtock their poſſeſſions properly, and partly becauſe the ſtocking manufactory, the only manufactory carried on here, has been ſupplied with Engliſh wool, by the hoſiers of Aberdeen; which manufactory is of conſiderable extent, and has been the only means of raiſing the land rent, at leaſt one-third of its preſent value.

The ſtate of agriculture is, in general, much the ſame as it has been in the memory of man. More grain of the common kinds, oats and bear, is raiſed than is conſumed in the pariſh; but the export not great, nor well aſcertained. It is believed, that there is much leſs now raiſed than was 50 or 60 years ago, as the ſtocking of farms is much diminiſhed, and particularly, the number of oxen employed in tillage, is

not

not the one half. Potatoes, of which every occupier of land raiſes ſome, would ſeem to be the only real improvement. Of turnips, ſown graſs, on incloſed fields, the ſpecimens hitherto exhibited, are poor indeed. Of near 90 farmers, of one kind or other, 4 pay of rent 50 l. Sterling, and upwards; moſt of them leſs than 20 l. and many leſs than 10 l. there are not above ſix or ſeven who can be ſaid to have attempted any improvement. It muſt be acknowledged, that ſome of the proprietors, particularly Mr Baxter of Glaſſel, and Sir Robert Burnett of Leys; alſo, Mr Ruſſel in the near neighbourhood, have done, and are doing much in this reſpect; but examples ſet by gentlemen, of incloſing and dreſſing fields, appear not to be minded by ordinary farmers, who by inability, and the ſhort duration of their leaſes, cannot be expected to imitate. If ever this part of the country is improved, it muſt be by the heritors themſelves, or by their pitching on farmers of good character, who poſſeſs judgment, ſpirit, and means for it, and affording them ſuch encouragements as prudence and good ſenſe may direct, as may induce them to leave the old tract. In this way, and by examples ſet by ſuch, much might be accompliſhed, at a ſmall expence to the landholders, if accompanied with leaſes of at leaſt two 19 years—the converſion of mill multures, and almoſt all kind of ſervices—enforcing winter herding—and fixing proper plans of incloſing and croping. There is plenty of limeſtone on both ſides the river Dee, near the middle of the pariſh, of an inferior quality indeed, but found very uſeful for building, as well as for manure. It is of late years much employed, and a great proportion of it burnt with Engliſh coals; which, conſidering the high price of that article, and unequal tax on it when brought near to this diſtrict, and 18 miles land carriage, is no bad proof of the ſpirit and induſtry of the people.

Rivers.

Rivers.—The river Dee is in general pretty rapid; its banks for moſt part are adorned with natural woods, and plantations of various ſpecies of trees, forming beautiful and pictureſque ſcenery in many places. This is much heightened at Banchory Tarnan, by the junction with Dee of a ſmall, but impetuous, and often impaſſible river called Freuch. It is a collection of many ſtreams which come from the Grampian hills; and over this river, near a fine cataract and fall of its waters among rocks, and alſo near its conflux with Dee, almoſt oppoſite to Banchory, Mr Ruſſel of Blackhall, has lately erected a ſubſtantial ſtone-bridge of four arches, and likewiſe made good roads leading to it, to the great benefit of the country, even to a conſiderable diſtance.

The air by the river ſide is very ſalubrious, the ſoil being dry and ſandy; and throughout the pariſh, it is moſtly of a light quality, though generally on a clay bottom; but a mile or two north of the river, the wholeſomeneſs of the air muſt ſuffer abatement, from the low marſhy fields and moſſes, which are found from the one end to the other. There is a loch, called the Loch of Drum, between 2 and 3 miles in circuit, at the eaſtern extremity; and another of the ſame dimenſions, near the middle of the pariſh, called the Loch of Leys, having an artificial iſland, on oak piles, with ruins of houſes, and of an oven upon it; but there is no tradition concerning the uſe which may have been made of the antient ſtructure. Theſe lochs, and low wet lands, muſt be unfriendly to the health of the people. Accordingly, there are no inſtances of great longevity. At preſent, there are few above 80 years of age: Many of the young are ſubject to ſore throats, conſumptions, and eſpecially to ſcrophulous diſorders, and of late there have been four or five inſtances of *chorea ſancti viti.*—Rheumatiſm prevails among thoſe advanced in life, and epidemical

demical fevers are not unfrequent.—The ſmall-pox is ſeldom mortal, even in the natural way.

Church, School, and Poor.—In the year 1775, there was an elegant new church built. The manſe is very old; its age unknown. The glebe and toft want more than one-fourth of an acre of the legal extent. The ſtipend is about 42 l. Sterling, with 4 chalders of victual, one-third bear, beſide the annualrent of 100 l. Sterling, mortified for behoof of the miniſter, by Dr Alexander Reid, whoſe father had been a miniſter here.

There is a ſchool for teaching Latin, Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic; and what is ſingular, no part of the ſalary is paid by the heritors or tenants. It is 16 l. Sterling; which, with 1 l. Sterling ſet apart for upholding the ſchool-houſe, is annualrent at $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* of a ſum mortified by ſaid Dr Reid, and of 50 l. Sterling by another gentleman. The whole was originally intended for the ſubſiſtence of a head maſter, and two aſſiſtants. There is alſo a woman's ſchool, for the education of young girls; the fund for the maintenance of the miſtreſs is 2000 merks, mortified alſo by Dr Reid.

The poor at preſent are 80 in number, which high proportion is very much occaſioned, by the more than common proviſion made for them here, by which induſtry is abated, and ſtrangers induced to obtain a ſettlement in the pariſh, while a degree of diſcontent and envy is unhappily excited in the minds of the poor. Hence it might be inferred, that it would be better they were relieved by charitable cotemporaries, to the advancement of ſympathy in the one, and of gratitude in the other. The funds are 350 l. Sterling, mortified by one of the family of Leys, for the benefit of the poor on that eſtate in the pariſh; 100 l. Sterling by Dr Reid; 100 l. by Alexander Shank of Caſtlerig, a ſon of one of the miniſters; and

50 l.

50 l. by a late Dr George Reid. The collections in the church are between 5 s. and 6 s. Sterling each Lord's day, and about 5 l. or 6 l. Sterling on communion occaſions. The poor are ſupplied at ſeveral annual diſtributions, and as they are found to ſtand in need. The average of marriages, for the laſt 30 years, is 13; of baptiſms, 29. No regiſter for burials.

Character.—The people in general are induſtrious, ſober, and peaceable. There has been no criminal proſecution of any inhabitant for a long time paſt. Whether, within the laſt 30 or 40 years, the people have improved in morals, and the ornaments of the mind, ſhall not be poſitively affirmed; perhaps there is no great difference; but in external attire, there is a ſtriking alteration to the better, eſpecially among the young men and women. None are of the Popiſh perſuaſion; 3 are of the Engliſh Epiſcopal church; and about 30 Seceders, of the Antiburgher perſuaſion. Theſe laſt obtained liberty more than 20 years ago, from one of the heritors, to build a meeting-houſe. They have another in the pariſh of Echt, but no ſettled clergyman in either pariſh.—The ſpirit of ſeceſſion has been, and is declining in this diſtrict.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF OLD OR WEST MONKLAND.

(County of Lanark.—Preſbytery of Hamilton.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN BOWER.

Situation and Name.

LYING in the heart of a populous and manufacturing county, and on the great road betwixt the two chief cities of the kingdom, this pariſh furniſhes ample room for ſtatiſtical obſervations.

The origin of the name is obvious. The monks, who uſually fixed on a pleaſant ſituation, had a reſidence here; and there exiſts a tradition, that a certain pilgrim, in order to do penance for ſome ſin, was obliged to carry a particular ſtone in this direction from Glaſgow; and, when he could bear it no farther, to build a church at his own expence. The ſtone is ſtill to be ſeen.

Eccleſiaſtical State, and Education.—The tythes of this pariſh, amounting to 349 bolls, together with graſſums at giving leaſes, belong to the Univerſity of Glaſgow, being part of the ſubdeanry which was purchaſed by the College from the family of Hamilton about the year 1652. Out of this the miniſter receives only 8 chalders of grain, and 50 merks for communion elements. The church, being rebuilt in 1790, is

is a large and commodious houſe. The manſe was completely repaired in 1791. The ſituation has often been remarked for its beauty. The pariſh is 10 miles long, and 3½ in breadth.—Beſide the legal ſchoolmaſter, there are 4 public teachers in the pariſh, two of whom have very good houſes built by ſubſcription. Though the abilities of the maſters are unqueſtionable, ſome of the ſchools are but thinly attended. The boys and girls get wages for tambouring, ſewing muſlin, &c. at ſo early a period, that there is great danger of their education being neglected. It is alſo worthy of obſervation, that, though this pariſh is in the vicinity of Glaſgow, very few young men belonging to it attend the Univerſity, or proſecute any of the learned profeſſions. So ſoon as they can write, and underſtand any thing of arithmetic, they obtain good encouragement in the mercantile line, which they naturally prefer to the more gradual and uncertain emoluments of law, divinity, or phyſic.—Sunday ſchools ſeem not to be unexceptionable inſtitutions; for, how pious ſoever may be the intention of their promoters, they undoubtedly weaken the authority of parents, and tend to make them negligent in their duty.—The poor are tolerably provided for. None beg; nor is there here any aſſeſſment. The weekly collections, which may be about 35 l. *per annum*; the third part of what is obtained at Shettleſton Chapel, (which was built partly to accommodate the weſt end of this pariſh), and the intereſt of ſome ſtock, enable the ſeſſion to give decent relief to the diſtreſſed. The various ſocieties inſtituted among the trades people, alſo afford aſſiſtance; and one cannot help remarking, that it is inexcuſeable in heritors who do not reſide, or do not attend the church, not to contribute to this important purpoſe. By this means an aſſeſſment might be avoided, the conſequences of which are always to be dreaded.

Population and Manners.—There are, at preſent, 4000 ſouls in the pariſh. The number in 1755 was only 1813. This rapid increaſe of population is owing to the eſtabliſhment of manufactures. With a few exceptions, the whole people adhere to the church, and are regular in attending on religious ordinances. About 800 communicants are uſually at the Lord's Supper. In the preſent manner of diſpenſing that holy ordinance, there is great need of a reform. Owing to the crowds which aſſemble, much irregularity takes place. It would be more decent in itſelf, and productive of higher comfort to ſerious perſons, were every congregation to communicate quietly by themſelves. The people are very fond of controverſial Divinity. Indeed, knowledge of every kind is univerſally diffuſed; and there is ſcarcely a family that does not regularly read the newſpapers. The heritors and elders chooſe the miniſter, according to act 1690; and it is not impertinent to notice, that, though popular elections are frequently attended with ſtrife and diſcord, yet here, and in the New Monkland, which is in the ſame predicament, the greateſt peace and harmony have always prevailed on theſe occaſions. There are 44 heritors, more than the half of whom reſide in the pariſh.

Face of the Country, Cultivation, &c.—The old valuation is 6000 l. Scotch. The real rental may be near 5000 l. Sterling. A great part of the pariſh is incloſed, the advantages of which are univerſally allowed. Beſide a vaſt quantity of natural wood, there are more than 1000 acres planted. This beautifies the country, and improves the climate. We have many extenſive orchards, which ſome years turn out to great advantage. A ſtranger is ſtruck with the view of this pariſh: It has the appearance of an immenſe garden. The ſoil is of 3 kinds; along the banks of Clyde and Calder, which waſh

this pariſh for 9 or 10 miles, there is a ſtrong clay. Here are produced luxuriant crops of every grain, eſpecially of wheat; ſometimes from 12 to 16 bolls are taken off an acre. The middle of the pariſh is a light ſand, affording excellent crops of oats and potatoes. A farmer ſells an acre undigged at from 13 l. to 17 l. Sterling. Towards the north are conſiderable tracks of moſs. The rivers above named abound with ſalmon in the proper ſeaſon, and trout of every ſpecies. There is alſo plenty of pike and perch in the Monkland Canal, and in the great lochs on the north ſide of the pariſh; the taking of which, from ſmall boats made for the purpoſe, is a pleaſant amuſement.—The improvements of agriculture are carried on to a vaſt extent. Several plowing-matches have been inſtituted: Theſe create a ſpirit of emulation, and a deſire to excel. The farmers are uncommonly intelligent. They have formed themſelves into a ſociety, which meets on the firſt Thurſday of every month. Their object is to communicate their knowledge, and purchaſe the moſt proper books relating to their buſineſs. In the pariſh are ſeveral threſhing-mills, which have been found of great uſe. The plough commonly uſed is an improvement of the old Scotch one. Small's would not cloſe the ſtiff lee of this pariſh. The beam is 6 feet; the ſtilt 6 feet 3 inches. It turns the ſteepeſt ground; and, being very light, 3 horſes will perform as much work with it as 4 with the old one.—A conſiderable diſadvantage under which the farmers labour, is the diſtance from lime; but this will, it is hoped, ſoon be removed, at leaſt in ſome degree; as, after the junction of the two canals, lime may be brought from the north by water carriage, and as there is a bridge to be erected over the Clyde, on the ſouth. The ordinary rotation of crops is this: From lee ſometimes oats, ſometimes peas; then ſummer fallow and wheat; then peaſe and beans; and then oats and graſs

graſs ſeed. Proprietors of land have begun to paſture the greateſt part of their eſtates. This method, they find, brings as good a rent, and tends to improve their property. Some of this ground ſets at 1 l. 17 s. *per* acre. It is to be obſerved, that the riſe of their rents always makes farmers thrive: It calls forth their induſtry, and compels them to be active. Though the value of land be vaſtly increaſed, the people live and dreſs much better than formerly. Property here is often transferred from one owner to another, as is the caſe in the neighbourhood of every great commercial town. Indeed, the reaſon why this pariſh is in ſuch a high degree of cultivation, is, that when a merchant has been ſucceſsful, he purchaſes a piece of land, builds an elegant villa, and improves his property at the deareſt rate. This accounts for the vaſt number of gentlemen's houſes with which the pariſh is adorned, many of them finiſhed in the greateſt taſte.—There are kept in the pariſh 1 coach, 5 chaiſes, and 5 phaetons. Owing to the numerous incloſures, there are few ſheep. The large kind, which feed with the cows, are very prolific. One ewe, for inſtance, in 9 years, produced 30 lambs.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Wherever manufactures and commerce ſeat themſelves, their influence on landed property is felt in an inconceivable degree; and how much is it the intereſt of landholders to cheriſh and protect them! conſequently, the riſe of the value of land in this pariſh is aſtoniſhing. One farm, which, about the year 1730, coſt 300 l. was lately ſold for 2100 l.—As the gentlemen pay particular attention to that buſineſs, the roads are kept in excellent repair. The ſtatute work is commuted. The great road from Glaſgow to Edinburgh, by Whiteburn, runs through this pariſh, on which there is a toll-bar, worth a vaſt ſum yearly. There is alſo a toll at Langloan, on the road from Glaſgow

to

to Airdrie. This road paſſes near the church, and traverſes the pariſh 7 miles. By an act of Parliament juſt obtained, it is to be extended to Edinburgh by Bathgate; and, when executed, will be the moſt eligible way between theſe cities, not only as being ſhorteſt, but moſt level, and free from pulls.

Age, Diſeaſes, &c.—Though there is no inſtance of remarkable longevity, it may be concluded, that the ſituation is healthy, ſince there are alive ſeveral perſons above 90, and many above 80. Prejudices againſt inoculation, though not entirely eradicated, are gradually wearing out. Local diſeaſes are unknown. Fevers and conſumptions are moſt frequent. The former prevail after harveſt, if the weather has been hot. Two families who reſide at Lochend, (betwixt two large lochs), are regularly attacked with this diſeaſe at a certain time, when it does not viſit any of the neighbours. This muſt be owing to the exhalations from the water, which ſtagnates and grows putrid. Several young women of this pariſh have fallen into conſumptions by ſitting too long on the damp ground at tent preachings.

Alehouſes.—There are no leſs than 30 inns or public-houſes in the pariſh. Theſe, it muſt be confeſſed, are attended with the moſt pernicious effects to the health and morals of the people. It is no uncommon thing for a labouring man to ſpend all his wages in theſe houſes, and ſuffer his unhappy wife and children to continue in want and wretchedneſs. Government could not adopt a wiſer meaſure than to raiſe the price of licenſes. If a reformation of manners is not happily effected, what muſt be the conſequence of ſuch execrable practices, it is not difficult to ſay. There is a certain gradation in the political, as well as in the human body. Trade produces affluence: Affluence is the parent of luxury

and

and diſſipation, which infallibly undermine and diſſolve the fabric. "Righteouſneſs exalteth a nation, but ſin is the re-"proach of any people."

Flax.—A conſiderable quantity of flax is raiſed in this pariſh, which is generally ſown on ground well manured with dung or lime, after one crop is taken from it. Such ground ſets at from 4 l. to 7 l. *per* acre. The Riga ſeed is preferred. The time of ſowing flax is the month of April, and it is ready for pulling about the 1ſt of Auguſt. Nine women, at 10 d. will pull an acre in a day. There are two lint mills, at which flax is ſkutched and dreſſed, at 2 s. 6 d. *per* ſtone. The produce is 16 ſtone *per* acre, and will ſell at 12 s. or 13 s. *per* ſtone. Within theſe 10 years, the raiſing of flax is greatly increaſed; one man has generally 30 acres, which circulates 240 l. yearly. He has got ſeveral premiums from the truſtees.

Weavers.—Of theſe there are no leſs than 400 in this pariſh, who all work to the manufacturers of Glaſgow. They generally marry young, to which their high wages are an inducement: We may ſuppoſe that they produce a circulation of 14,400 l. annually. This valuable body of men have formed themſelves into a ſociety, which is governed by a deacon and 4 maſters. Their object is to aſſiſt members in diſtreſs; and they have now a conſiderable capital. Inſtitutions of this ſort, when properly conducted, are extremely uſeful. It may be added, under this article, that about 200 girls are employed in dotting, tambouring, &c.; ſome of them begin at 8 or 9 years of age, and, at that early period, gain 6 d. or 8 d. *per* day. Though this may be profitable to one claſs, it is attended with material inconvenience to another. Farmers loudly complain of the high wages of ſervants, and ſometimes find difficulty

difficulty in procuring them at all. Is there no remedy for this growing evil?

Pottery.—Near the bank of the Monkland Canal, was erected, in 1785, a large brick and tyle work, where are manufactured blue, pan, and ſlate tyles, the firſt of the kind in Scotland. Theſe tyles are preferable to red ones, in point of durableneſs; and ſo ſimilar are they, in ſhape and colour, to ſlate itſelf, that it requires a nice eye to diſcover the difference, when put on the roof. The motive for ſettling here was the abundance of coal, and the vaſt variety of common and fire clay that is found in the lands. At the ſame place, in 1788, Mr Creelman commenced a pot-work for making ſalt ware; this manufacture is glazed with ſalt, which is the reaſon of its obtaining that name. It is alſo called brown ſtone, or grey-beard ware. It is excellent for holding ſpiritous liquors, and is moſtly exported to America and the Weſt Indies. This branch was borrowed from the Dutch by the Engliſh, and is the firſt manufacture of the kind in Scotland. On the ſame grounds is a free-ſtone quarry, of a ſuperior quality, and beautiful white colour. The ſtones are carried to Glaſgow by the Canal, where they are uſed for hearths, ſtair-caſes, and pavement; they are alſo ſent to Ireland, America, and the Weſt Indies. It is ſo portable, that you may have it from 1 to 6 inches thick, and in boards of a yard ſquare, and ſo ſmooth, as to require very little poliſhing: A high value is ſet on this ſtone. About 70 people are employed at theſe works.

Monkland Canal.—In the year 1770, an act of Parliament was obtained for making a navigable cut or canal, from the Monkland collieries to the city of Glaſgow and the river Clyde. The deſign of the undertakers was to open an eaſy com-

communication with the interior parts of the country, and by reducing the price of coal, to be of advantage to the manufacturers of Glaſgow.—The original ſubſcription, however, being found defficient, and the trade of this country brought to a ſtagnation by the American war, the ſcheme was interrupted until 1782, when the ſtock was ſold by public auction. Meſſrs. Stirling, who purchaſed the largeſt ſhare, and who ultimately became the ſole proprietors, began to finiſh the plan; and, with great ſpirit and perſeverance, have extended the navigation to the river Calder, 13 miles eaſt of Glaſgow, and formed a junction with the great canal at Port Dundas. The canal is 15 feet wide at the bottom, and 30 at the ſurface, capable of admitting veſſels which draw $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet water, equal to about 60 tons burden.—The height of the canal, above the level of the ſea, is

1*ſt*, Height of Forth and Clyde navigation,		156 feet.
2*d*, Raiſed at Blackhill, by 8 locks,	-	96
3*d*, Raiſed at Sheepford, by 2 locks,	-	21
		273

The whole of theſe works are completed, except the locks at Blackhill, which are in great forwardneſs. A waggon road is alſo finiſhed between the baſon and Glaſgow, which renders carriage cheap and eaſy. The total expence will be 30,000 l. The Canal trade is at preſent as follows:

1*ſt*, Coals navigated by Mr Stirling,		50,000 carts.
2*d*, Ditto by Captain Chriſtie,	-	30,000
		80,000

Owing to its not being finiſhed, the advantages ariſing from this

this navigation have hitherto been greatly circumſcribed; but there is reaſon to believe that they will now be felt more ſenſibly, on account of the certain increaſe of the coal trade, and the probability of other commercial operations. The preſent tonnage is only 6 d. *per* cart of 12 cwt. although the proprietors have a right to levy 2 d. *per* tun each mile. Coals are delivered at Glaſgow, by this conveyance, 3 d. lower *per* cart, than at any coal work around the city.

This immenſe undertaking begins to enhance the value of the adjacent land, as lime and dung can be brought by the veſſels which convey the coal. Mr Stirling brings about 3000 carts yearly to his own eſtate. There are alſo various other productions, as iron ſtone, which may be turned out to advantage, and ſeveral favourable ſituations for cotton machinery. Next ſummer Mr Stirling means to eſtabliſh a track-boat, which will be a pleaſant mode of conveyance to Glaſgow. Beſides its own proper advantages, the Monkland Canal affords a convenient aqueduct to the Forth and Clyde navigation, by conveying water from the reſervoirs in the higher parts of the country.

The chief ſupply of water is from the Calder, which is conducted into it by a dam at Woodhall mill; it never fails in the drieſt ſeaſon. This plentiful reſource, which can be increaſed to double the quantity, at the very higheſt part of the country, with many other favourable circumſtances, open an inviting track for the extenſion of the canal to Edinburgh, a plan at preſent in agitation, and which, when executed, will be productive of innumerable benefits to the country. The track that has been ſurveyed, ſouth of the Shotts hill, riſes 522 feet above the height of the preſent canal, and betwixt Edinburgh and Glaſgow is 30 miles. But a preferable track can be found north of the Shotts hills, which riſes not ſo high by 140 feet, and is 10 miles ſhorter. A particular

cular ſtate of the trade, profits, &c. of this projected canal, was publiſhed in the Glaſgow newſpapers, April 1791 *.

Bleachfields.—There are two in this pariſh, though that at Wellhouſe is now partly removed into the Barony pariſh, the original field is in Old Monkland. Meſſrs. Gray laid out their ground with great judgment and expence. They were the firſt in this country who bleached after the Dutch method; and for their diligence and ingenuity obtained a conſiderable premium from government. Buſineſs is ſtill carried on to a large extent.

Carmylefield—Was erected in 1741, by Mr M'Kenzie, an enterpriſing merchant of Glaſgow. Nothing can exceed the beauty of its ſituation, having a fine ſouthern expoſure, waſhed by the Clyde. About 50 people are employed; men get 7 s. women 5 s. *per* week. Many thouſand pieces of light muſlin are done here annually. This field, which contains upwards of 10 acres, has ſome peculiar advantages: There is a well 6 feet deep, which fills in 12 hours. The water is carried 510 feet, and runs 3 gallons in a minute. Much praiſe is due to the proprietors for their attention to the morals of their ſervants.

Clyde

* ESTIMATE

Of the Revenue ariſing from a SMALL CANAL *from Leith into Edinburgh, and from thence to Glaſgow, by joining the Monkland Canal.*

To 100,000 tons of coal from the weſt country to the city of Edinburgh, Leith, and the intermediate country, at 1 s. 6 d. *per* ton. (The total conſumption is about 160,000 tons), L. 7500 0 0

To 8000 tons of pig-iron from Muirkirk, Clyde, Cleland, and Cleugh works, at 3 s. *per* ton, 1200 0 0

Clyde Iron-works—Are ſituated in the weſt end of this pariſh, 3 miles eaſt of Glaſgow, on ground feued from James Dunlop

To 6000 tons of grain and meal, at 8 s. *per* ton, which is half the price now given along the Shotts road for cartage of a ton, -	2400	0	0
Lime from Weſt Lothian to the middle ward of Lanarkſhire, for agriculture, and for Cleland and Clyde iron-works, at leaſt 20,000 tons *per* annum, at 1 s. *per* ton, - -	1000	0	0
Coal to Glaſgow, and for exportation from Clyde, 20,000 ton, at 1 s. *per* ton. The coal ſold at Glaſgow is 140,000 tons a-year, and the exportation increaſing, as veſſels are now detained there wanting to be loaded with coal,	1000	0	0
4000 tons of Lancaſhire iron-ore yearly, for the Cleland and Cleugh iron-works, at 1 s. *per* ton from Glaſgow, - - -	200	0	0
2000 tons of iron-ſtone to the iron-works in the weſt, from the adjacent mines, at 6 d. *per* ton,	50	0	0
9000 paſſengers may be ſuppoſed to go along the Canal from Edinburgh to Glaſgow, and from Glaſgow to Edinburgh, and to the intermediate country, as 3000 went laſt year along the Great Canal; therefore ſtating their toll to the Canal at 1 s. each, is -	450	0	0
	L. 13,800	0	0

The number of tons of goods, wines, &c. from Leith to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to Leith, for want of time cannot yet be aſcertained; but is immenſe, and ſuppoſed to be yearly conſiderably above 50,000 tons, which might be brought up into the city by a Canal for 8 d. *per* ton, which now pays on an average 2 s. 6 d. *per* ton land carriage, and 4 s. for wines.

Stone for building, and lime from Lord Morton's, at 1 s. *per* ton, the quantity cannot be aſcertained till the builders make calculations, but would be very conſiderable.

Iron-ſtone from Mr Houſton of Calderhall's to Carron, at 1 s. *per* ton; but as the iron-ſtone is of a ſuperior quality, and will be wrought and carried at a cheaper rate than the Carron Company is now ſupplied, the conſumption, in all probability, would turn out very great.

Foreign

Dunlop of Garnkirk, Eſq. The Clyde company began to erect theſe works in 1786. There is abundance of coal within

Foreign wood for building, flax, yarn, bar-iron, pitch, tallow, ſoap, ſeeds, Scots manufactures from the eaſt to the weſt, ſpirits from the diſtilleries from the eaſt to the weſt, wines and other articles to Hamilton, and the intermediate country. The number of tons of the above articles muſt be very conſiderable, excluſive of what will paſs along the Great Canal; and many of the articles can afford to pay high toll, as the revenue of a Canal ought to be rated according as each article can afford to pay, to draw the greateſt toll from it.

Articles of commerce from the Clyde to the Frith of Forth. Naval ſtores, ſugars, rice, and tobacco, from America and the Weſt Indies; linen, gauze, and cotton manufactures, herrings, and other fiſh, kelp, ſlate, ſkins, and lead, from the weſt country; hay, veal from Strathaven and the weſt, which the Edinburgh market is ſupplied with, and various other articles not thought of: Trade increaſing, and the country conſequently flouriſhing, and every gentleman's eſtate made more capable of improvement, by the Canal paſſing through it; and manufactures would be eſtabliſhed from Edinburgh to Glaſgow along it to a vaſt extent, as they ever will go where coal is cheap, and their goods readily brought to market by an eaſy communication. Dung, by return of coal boats, would alſo pay very conſiderable toll, as the quantity carried weſt would be great.

Should the propoſed Canal take place, coals of exceeding good quality can be ſold at Edinburgh for 7 s. 9 d. the 24 cwt. the common quantity of two carts, which would be a ſaving to the inhabitants of 3 s. 3 d. on every two carts, and on 100,000 tons, at 6 s. 6 d. *per* ton, a ſaving of 13,333 l. *per annum*; and the advantage on other articles of conſumption, where the price is at preſent enhanced by land carriage, would be in proportion reduced.

Excluſive of the conſumption of Edinburgh and Leith, which is 160,000 tons a year, the merchants of Leith have offered to export 40,000 tons, provided it is put on board ſhip in Leith at 8 s. *per* ton; and if the Canal takes place, it will be put on board at Leith much cheaper from the weſt country.

Mr Whitworth, the engineer, will determine the expence of the Canal; but it is ſuppoſed, by calculations already made by an engineer verſant in canal-making, that the expence of a ſmall

in 200 yards, and plenty of iron-ſtone in the neighbourhood. About 20,000 tons of coals are conſumed yearly, which quantity will no doubt be greatly increaſed, when forges are completed for converting pig-iron into bar-iron. Two blaſt furnaces are working, and there is prepared a boring-mill for cannon, cylinders, &c. About 300 manufacturers and labourers are employed: They begin to mould ſmall goods ſo early as 10 years of age. Men's wages, according to their department, are from 7 s. to 21 s. *per* week. After being ſmelted in the furnaces, the iron is made into a variety of caſt-iron goods, as pots, pans, boilers, &c. From the enterpriſing ſpirit and abilities of the proprietors, there is reaſon to expect, that theſe works will be ſoon extended to a very large ſcale. Contrary to what one would imagine, the people are healthy, and live long. This warm buſineſs ſeems to be friendly to population—moſt of the workmen have numerous families. The ſcite of Clyde iron-works appears to have been a burying-ground of ancient date. When digging the foundation of the buildings, a great quantity of human bones were found, depoſited betwixt two flag-ſtones. Theſe ſtones were ſo placed, as to form a cavity of conſiderable extent, and this cavity covered with a ſtone of the ſame kind. In the earthen urns were contained aſhes, mixed with ſmall bones, on ſome of which were evident marks of fire. In a pit

ſmall Canal will not exceed 75,000 l. and the revenue of the Canal will amount to conſiderably above 15,000 l. a-year, when the trade from Leith, and other articles, ſuch as lime, ſtones for building, &c. are included.

The Derbyſhire Canal, 40 miles in length, which goes into the Trent, is tunneled through two mountains, one of which is above half in length through hard rock, and only coſt 100,000 l. and the country was alſo very rocky through which it was conducted; but through the clay grounds in Lanarkſhire and in the Lothians, the cutting four feet deep will not be expenſive.

pit now ſinking are diſcovered, at the depth of 60 feet, the ſhells of different ſea animals, wholly petrified.

Coal.—This pariſh abounds with coal; and what a benefit is it for Glaſgow and its environs, to be ſo amply provided with this neceſſary article? There are computed to be a greater number of colliers here, than in any other pariſh in Scotland.

1. Fullarton coal-work, belonging to Mr Dunlop, is in the weſtern extremity of the pariſh. The coal is opened to 128 yards depth, in which are 6 ſeams 23 feet thick, producing all the different kinds of coal that are found in Scotland, and of excellent quality; the ſplint is reckoned inferior to no coal in Britain for a blaſt furnace. A large ſteam engine drains a field of 800 acres. The coals are carried out of the pit by a machine, in place of a horſe-gin.—75 colliers are employed, beſides an equal number of artificers, labourers, &c. Wages are from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. *per* day. The price at the pit is from 3 s. to 4 s. *per* ton. From its nearneſs to Glaſgow and Clyde, this work muſt greatly increaſe.

2. About a mile north of Fullarton, and 4 miles eaſt of Glaſgow, lie Barrachnie and Sandyhills coal-works. Though theſe works are connected, it is to be obſerved, that near one half of the works and men are in the Barony pariſh. The ſeams of coals, wages, &c. are the ſame as at Fullarton.—90 colliers are engaged, beſides about 60 bearers, boys, &c. Here, laſt ſpring, Mr Hamilton erected a machine for drawing up the coal, to go entirely by ſteam.—It is on an improved plan, and the firſt of the kind in Scotland. It is found to be the cheapeſt, and moſt expeditious way of doing that buſineſs; for could colliers be placed in the pit to keep her conſtantly employed, ſhe would turn out about 200 ton *per* day. The preſent out-put is 35,000 tons *per* year.

3. At

3. At Faſhine, Mr Stirling has about 80 colliers employed, beſides workmen, &c. The greateſt part of the coal is conveyed to Glaſgow by the canal, as ſtated already.

4. Captain Chriſtie alſo carries on conſiderable trade in coal. He has made a collateral cut from his land to join the canal. He has about 50 men engaged. Theſe coals too are moſtly ſent by the canal.

Total number of colliers, bearers, and others connected with that buſineſs in this pariſh:

1. At Fullarton, - -	150
2. Half of Barrachnie, &c. -	75
3. Mr Stirling's, - -	160
4. Captain Chriſtie's, -	50
	435

It has been obſerved by coal-maſters, that no inſtance is known in Scotland of a collier being executed for a capital crime, though they are generally eſteemed a rough and obſtreperous claſs of men. It is alſo to be remarked, in honour of the cauſe of liberty, that ſince the æra of their emancipation, the colliers are become a more reſpectable body than before. Inſtead of being conſidered as inferior beings, which was formerly the caſe, they now behave and dreſs like their fellow citizens.

On a review of the various manufactures of this pariſh, how much, may we ſay, does the country ſtand indebted to the gentlemen connected with it. Let other nations adore their warriors and butchers of mankind, we will pay a juſt tribute of praiſe to thoſe nobler minds, who cultivate the happy arts of induſtry and wealth.

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF DUNROSSNESS IN ZETLAND.

(County of Orkney.—Preſbytery of Zetland.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN MILL.

Name and Situation.

DUNROSSNESS means the hill of the promontory of Roſs. This pariſh is on the ſouthern extremity of Zetland. It is a peninſula waſhed by the ſea on three ſides, and is comparatively the moſt fertile diſtrict in the Zetland Iſles. Two other pariſhes are united with Dunroſsneſs, under the charge of the ſame miniſter. Theſe are Sandwick, which means the Sandy-bay; and Cunningſburgh, the ſame name with Koningſberg, which, in the Norſe or Scandinavian language, means Kingſburgh.

Soil, Air, and Produce.—The ſoil in the arable parts of the pariſh is various. In ſome places ſandy; in others loam and clay.—Conſiderable tracks are of moſs, and conſequently of little value. The air is moiſt in a great degree, but by no means unhealthy. Many of the people live to a great age—ſome to 100 years and upwards. The hills in this pariſh are green, and the land for the moſt part firm. By theſe circumſtances it is rendered more valuable, as well as a more agreeable reſidence, than the black mountains and moraſſes

to

to the north. The arable grounds are chiefly by the ſea-ſhore, and on the margins of the creeks, which on all ſides run up into the country. On theſe grounds barley and oats are raiſed; large fields of potatoes are alſo planted, which are of great benefit to this country. Cabbages, turnips, carrots, and other kitchen ſtuffs, are to be found in the gardens of the Zetlanders, in the ſame abundance as on the continent of Scotland. No graſs ſeeds are ſown in this pariſh; but it is remarkable, that on the ſandy grounds, when properly protected from cattle, natural crops of clover and rye-graſs ſpring as richly as on the ſown fields in other parts of the kingdom.—No trees are to be ſeen in this region, excepting a few ſhrubby, roan trees, and willows in the more ſheltered valleys. The ſpray of the ſea, which is blown over the whole country by the weſterly winds, forms a natural obſtacle to the ſucceſs of plantations. The force and duration of the tempeſts from the weſt, are among the moſt ſtriking features of a Zetland winter; and if to theſe are added, the thunder and lightening which often occur in that ſeaſon, it will appear, that the Zetlanders have their ſhare of the inclemency of the heavens, although they have leſs of froſt and ſnow than the inhabitants of wider countries.

Minerals.—There are many mineral ſprings in this pariſh, as in other diſtricts of Zetland, which bear the appearance of iron-ore. Near the iſland of Whalſey, which lies to the eaſtward, mariners have obſerved, that the compaſs reels, and cannot fix as uſual to a point, which is believed to be owing to the attraction of iron-mines in that place. In the years 1789 and 1790, Zetland was viſited by ſome gentlemen from London, who found on the eſtate of Quendal a rich iron-mine; and, in various parts of the iſlands, the ores of copper, lead,

lead, and iron, ſamples of which were carried to London, particularly of copper, in conſiderable quantity.

Agriculture, Cattle, and Sheep.—The lands are reckoned by a peculiar meaſurement, by what are called merks-land.—Each merk-land ought to contain 1600 ſquare fathoms. To each one cow is allotted; and the pariſh contains 2000 of theſe merk-lands, and conſequently as many cows. In Sandwick and Cunningſburgh, the farmers plough chiefly with oxen, and at Neſs with horſes; 4 oxen or 4 horſes in a plough, which go all abreaſt; but the ground is chiefly laboured with ſpades of a light kind; with theſe, 5 or 6 men and women, will turn over as much land in a day, as a Scotch plough with 8 or 10 oxen. The oxen, with the young cattle, are about 1000. The pariſh of Dunroſsneſs, having more arable and leſs paſture ground than the neighbouring pariſhes, the number of ſheep is, of courſe, ſmaller than in the other diſtricts. It was, however, conſiderable, till within theſe few years; a large Engliſh ſcabbed ram was imported into this diſtrict, which infected the flock to which he was brought, and the infection has ſpread among the ſheep through the whole pariſh, notwithſtanding every precaution and effort of the farmers to prevent it. In conſequence of this unhappy circumſtance, the whole number of ſheep in the united pariſhes of Dunroſsneſs, Sandwick, and Cunningſburgh, does not now exceed 5000.

Birds.—Eagles, hawks, ravens, &c. are ſo numerous, as to make havock of the lambs and poultry, inſomuch that the commiſſioners of ſupply give a crown for every eagle that is deſtroyed. Swans in great numbers reſort to this pariſh in October and November, and remain about the lochs of Skelberry and Scouſburgh during the winter.—In the end of A-

pril, or beginning of May, they migrate to Norway, where their young are hatched. The ember gooſe, as it is here called, is a bird larger than the tame gooſe; has a long bill, and doleful cry; it ſeldom leaves the ſea—its legs are ſo ſhort, that it can hardly walk. Of ducks there are various ſpecies, which reſort to the lochs above mentioned. Beſides the wild duck, are ſcale-drakes, equal to the wild duck in ſize; the points of their bills turn up a little; they are of a beautiful brown colour, and hatch their young in rabbit-holes. There is a large ſpecies called the ſtock-duck, and ſmaller ſpecies called teales and attiles. Sea birds of various kinds abound, ſeveral ſpecies of which become white in winter. There are alſo here in their ſeaſon, the lapwing, the grey and yellow plover, and the night-rail.

Fiſh.—The lakes already mentioned produce conſiderable quantities of trouts of a large ſize, which reſemble grilſes or young ſalmon, and abundance of large eels. At ſea, the fiſhes moſt uſually caught are ling, cod, tuſk, and ſeth; theſe laſt are taken in the tide-ways, and chiefly at the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh; few of theſe are ſold in Zetland, either freſh or dry ſalted; they are ſent to Hamburgh or Leith, or where the beſt markets can be found. For the uſe of the inhabitants, the fiſhers take abundance of turbot, ſkate, ſmall cod, haddocks, whitings, herrings, mackarels, flounders, &c. particularly in the ſpring ſeaſon. The fiſh, butter, and oil, ſent to the Hamburgh market, yield a return to Zetland of wines, ſpirits, tea, coffee, ſugar, tobacco, linen, hooks, lines, &c. The rocks on the coaſt produce abundance of lobſters, crabs, oyſters, &c.

Population.—In the three united pariſhes, in 1755, the number of families was 451; of ſouls, according to Dr Webſter's

ſter's liſt, 2295, beſides the Fair Iſle, which had about 200. In 1770, the families, including Fair Iſle, were 561; the inhabitants, 2942. In 1790, the families, including Fair Iſle, were 570; and the inhabitants 3327. The number of females greatly exceeds the males, as the young men leave the country in numbers every year; being commonly inclined to a ſeafaring life, they reſort to England and Holland, but chiefly to London, where they ſerve on board the navy, merchant ſhips, or Greenlanders. The annual number of marriages depends much on the ſeaſons: In good years they may amount to 30 or upwards; but when the crops fail, will hardly come up to the half of that number.

Church and Poor.—A handſome church, with a pavilion roof, covered with Eaſdale ſlate, was built a few years ago at Dunroſſneſs. There is another church for the diſtricts of Sandwick and Cunningſburgh, whether the miniſter goes to officiate every third Sunday. That church has a kirk-ſeſſion of its own, and ought to form a ſeparate parochial charge, if there were funds ſufficient for the ſupport of a miniſter. The united pariſhes altogether form what is termed a *miniſtry*; and this miniſtry is 12 miles in length, and, in ſome places, 6 miles broad. The ſtipend is 1000 merks Scotch (55 l. 11 s. 3 d. Sterling), and 50 merks (2 l. 15 s. 7½ d.) for communion elements. The whole people are members of the eſtabliſhed Church. The preſbytery of Zetland is not ſubject to the juriſdiction of any provincial ſynod, but depends immediately on the General Aſſembly.

The poor are ſupported by weekly collections, and the fines levied from delinquents; the diſtribution is made by the kirk-ſeſſions. The number of poor was ſmall, and ſome little ſtock was happily accumulated previous to the year 1782, when a ſcene of misfortunes opened upon Zetland, which

made

made it neceſſary to give away both ſtock and income. For 5 years ſucceſſively, beginning with 1782, the crops almoſt wholly failed, and above 100 poor perſons came upon the ſeſſions of this miniſtry. No country in the world can bear a failure of crop better than Zetland, if the ſea continues to render its ſupplies, particularly when the ſmall fry of ſeth or cole fiſh fill the bays in their uſual abundance; but from 1781 to 1787, the ſea, as well as the land, withheld its uſual products. Theſe circumſtances were attended with a great murrain and mortality among the ſheep and cattle. In this ſituation, the people owed their relief to the bounty of government. Veſſels, loaded with proviſions, arrived ſeaſonably from England; and it was underſtood in this country, that the ſupplies were haſtened by the anxious ſympathy of our gracious Queen. In the event, no perſon died of want.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Sponges are found upon the ſhore in great plenty, ſhaped like a man's hand, and called by the people *Trowie Gloves*. There are no beacons or lighthouſes on the coaſt. The principal creeks are Quendal Bay, Grutneſs, and Weſt Voes, which lie on each ſide of Sumburgh Head, ſeparated by a neck of land. In Lerwick Sound, ſhips anchor and ride ſecurely, as they do alſo in Aithſvoe of Cunningſburgh. On the Fair Iſle in this miniſtry, the flag ſhip of the Spaniſh Armada was wrecked in 1588; and the Duke of Medina Celi reſided for ſome time in the houſe of Quendal.

There are no manufactures here, unleſs for domeſtic uſe, viz. blankets and coarſe cloth, excepting, perhaps, ſome ſtockings, gloves, and garters, ſold to the Dutch fiſhers. A linen manufacture was attempted here ſome years ago by the gentlemen of the country, and a conſiderable ſum of money was expended, but the adventure came to nothing: For its failure

failure two reaſons may be aſſigned. The want of a profeſſional owner, to combine his intereſt and ſkill in the management; and the choice of the ſpot, which was inconvenient. The fitteſt place for works belonging to this manufacture, would be the Loch of Sound near Lerwick, where there is a regular reſort from all parts.—The prices of proviſions are greatly raiſed within theſe 30 or 40 years. A fat ox or cow was then 30 s. now it is 3 l. 10 s. and other proviſions in proportion. Butter, from 4 s. is now 7 s. or 8 s. *per* 30 lb. weight. The proprietors, in letting their lands, proportion the extent of farms to the number of perſons in a family. Thus two merks-land is uſually let to a man and wife at firſt; but, as the family increaſes, they may have 3 or 4 merks-land. The great object is to ſet out as many boats as poſſible to the fiſhing, as, through this medium, the rents are paid. Hence the price of land on ſale in this country is higher in proportion to the rent than almoſt any where elſe. The eſtate of Sumburgh, to the ſurpriſe of the gentlemen of Edinburgh, was bought at 52 years purchaſe: It was a good bargain, not becauſe the rents were low, but from the mode in which they are paid. The rents of this country are chiefly paid out of the ſea. The tenants have from their landlords threepence allowed for a ling, a penny for a cod or tuſk, and a halfpenny for a ſeth, (cole fiſh); and theſe, when ſalted and dried, will, in the Hamburgh market, yield four or five times as much, beſides debentures from Government. Add to this, double or triple the prime coſt for goods brought back and ſold to the people, viz. linen, tobacco, ſpirits, hooks, lines, &c.—There are three ſorts of boats uſed in the fiſhing trade, a larger and a ſmaller ſize of 6 oared boats, and 4 oared boats. In all, there are about 200 boats through this miniſtry. Some brigs have formerly belonged to owners in this diſtrict, the laſt of which was captured by the French. Of late, a ſmall ſloop that goes upon

upon the fiſhing, and to different parts of the country, was built by one Robert Thompſon, a native of Fair Iſle, and who was for ſeveral years a ſchoolmaſter there, under the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. He is now a farmer and mariner, an excellent cooper, a wright, and maſon, by the force of a mechanical genius, without having ever been an apprentice to any of theſe profeſſions. His ſloop was built from the keel, and completely rigged and equipped by himſelf.—One of the principal means of improvement to this country would be good roads, as, at preſent, no cart or carriage whatever can be uſed for the tranſport of goods on the ſoft ſurface of the country, particularly to the northward. Two roads are eſpecially needed, viz. from Lerwick to Scalloway, the two principal towns of Zetland, the diſtance is only 4 miles; and from Lerwick through Tingwall pariſh to the pariſh of Delton, and thence to Yell ſound, through the very heart of the country, which is not above 12 miles; but, in ſome places, the peat moſs is ſo deep as to be impaſſable on horſeback.—Another great improvement on the ſtate of this country would be a better diviſion of the ſmall farms, which are parcelled out in diſcontiguous plots and run-rigg, termed here *rigg* and *rendal*. Even the moſt inconſiderable merk-lands, lying ſcattered in ſeveral patches, intermixed with patches poſſeſſed by other people. This unaccountable arrangement produces endleſs quarrels and vexations among neighbours, on account of treſpaſſes which muſt unavoidably occur almoſt daily while the fields remain thus interwoven.

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF GLASS.

(Counties of Aberdeen and Banff.—Preſbytery of Strathbogie.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN COOPER.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THE ancient and modern name of the pariſh is *Glaſs*. It is ſaid to be called ſo from the greenneſs of its hills, on which there is very little heath; and that the word *Glaſs*, in Iriſh, ſignifies *green*.—The river Dovern runs through the pariſh; and the church is ſituated on the north ſide of ſaid river, the courſe of which is from ſouth-weſt to north-eaſt. The extent of the pariſh, from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, is full five computed miles; and, from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt, upwards of four computed miles. The country is variegated by a number of green hills, which afford paſture for black cattle and ſheep, of each of which, numbers are produced and bred in the pariſh. The ſoil, in general, is a pretty deep loam. What lies along the river ſide is tolerably early; but thoſe parts which lie at any diſtance are rather cold and late, and the harveſt very precarious. The roads, in general, are very bad; for, though the ſtatute labour is exacted, yet it is very ſuperficially performed; and, by the ſwampineſs of the ground, the communication from place to place is little mended. Beſides this, Dovern is frequently impaſſable, as there

there is no boat or ſtone-bridge over it: Hence many accidents happen. Not fewer than 7 perſons have loſt their lives in the river within theſe 30 years paſt.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report in 1755, the number of ſouls was 1000. For theſe 34 years paſt, the amount of examinable perſons, at an average, was about 900. Laſt year, the number of ſouls was 942. This preſent year, (April 1791), the number is 970, which is conſiderably leſs than for years before 1782. There are about 12 or 14 Seceders, ſome of whom have families, and theſe are not reckoned. When the preſent incumbent entered, there were about 45 Papiſts, and 4 Nonjurors; but, at preſent, there are none. During 36 years, from 1756 to 1791 incluſive, the baptiſms in this pariſh were,—males, 345,—females, 350.

Effects of 1782.—The King's bounty in 1782, tranſmitted by the Barons of Exchequer, of 50 bolls meal, with what the funds of the pariſh afforded, preſerved the lives of the poor. The people, at that period, were meagre and ghaſtly; but the diſeaſes that were apprehended did not follow, owing, as was ſuppoſed, to their ſeldom getting a full meal of ſuch corrupted victual as the ſeaſon produced. So little productive was the oats or barley, that many were known not to have a peck of meal from a boll of dried corn; and the colour ſo black, that it reſembled more the ordinary duſt in the mills, than meal for the uſe of man. The tenants were greatly reduced; and many of their cottars were obliged to retire to the manufacturing towns for employment, by which the numbers are fewer than before.

Rent, Prices, Wages, and Crops.—The valued rent is 2250l. Scotch;

Scotch; the real rent about 1000 l. Sterling, converting the victual at 10 s. *per* boll. Rent of acres is from 6 s. 8 d. to 20 s. Sterling. Moſt of the farms have paſture graſs, on which they feed cattle. The young ſtore, the butter and cheeſe they make from their cows, and the linen yarn ſpun by the women to the manufacturers in Huntly, are the principal funds for paying their rents. Butter ſells from 5 d. to 7½ d. *per* pound; cheeſe at 4 s. and 5 s. *per* ſtone; and beef and mutton at from 3 d. to 4½ d. *per* pound. Men's ſervants wages run from 4 l. to 5 l. and ſome 6 l. *per* year; and women's wages, at an average, may be computed at 2 l. 5 s.—Oats, barley, and a few peaſe, are the ordinary crops the country produces; only, of late, ſome few have ſown turnip, and planted potatoes in the fields after the plough; and have, with next crop, laid down clover and rye-graſs, which have ſucceeded very well.

Church, Poor, and School.—The Duke of Gordon is patron. The ſtipend is 36 bolls oat-meal, 16 bolls bear, and 46 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling of money, with a glebe of about 15 acres of arable and graſs ground. The manſe and office-houſes were built in 1772. The church, which was quite ruinous, is this year very ſufficiently rebuilt. There are only two heritors, neither of whom reſide.—There are few begging poor in the pariſh, but ſeveral houſeholders that are in indigent circumſtances; and theſe, to the amount of between 30 and 40, get ſuch aſſiſtance as the funds will admit. The collections in the church do not exceed 7 l. or 8 l. at moſt in the year; but mortifications, to the extent of 150 l. Sterling, help in part.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks. There were, this winter, 32 ſcholars at the ſchool.

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF OLDHAMSTOCKS.

(Counties of Haddington and Berwick.—Preſbytery of Dunbar.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN COCHRAN.

Situation and Soil.

THE pariſh of Oldhamſtocks lies 6 miles eaſt of Dunbar, and 20 miles weſt of Berwick. It extends from the ſea up into Lammermuir, being in length from N. E. to S. W. about 6 Engliſh miles, and from 2 to 3 miles in breadth, from N. W. to S. E. The face of the country is compoſed of little hills, gradually riſing above each other, as the diſtance from the ſhore increaſes.

The ſoil is generally ſharp and dry; very fertile towards the ſea, but more barren and heathy as you advance from the ſhore;—the higher part of the pariſh being uſed chiefly for ſheep paſture. The air is dry and healthful.

Minerals.—In the lower part of the pariſh we find limeſtone, free-ſtone, iron-ſtone, and coal. The coal has formerly been wrought; but it was only the upper ſtratum, or crop coal, the level from which, as appears from the drain, was nearly equal with the ſea at low water. There may poſſibly be

be ſeveral ſtrata of coal below this, reſerved for ſome future period, when fuel may not be ſo eaſily procured as at preſent.

Improvements.—Improvements in huſbandry have, within theſe laſt 30 years, made rapid progreſs in this and the adjacent pariſhes, eſpecially in fallowing their lands, clearing it of ſtones, regular rotations of crops, with turnip and graſs. The farmers on the higher grounds have likewiſe begun to pay attention to their breed of ſheep; and by the crops of turnip and hay which they now raiſe, have, in a great meaſure, ſecured their flocks from the fatal effects of an hard winter. Within the ſame period, the mode of living is alſo much changed to the better, not only among the farmers, but even among the lower claſs of people; to which change, the feeding of ſwine, and the habit of eating pork, have contributed not a little. One farmer has erected a threſhing machine, conſtructed by Mr Meikle.—Severals of theſe machines have been erected in this neighbourhood, and are found to anſwer the purpoſe intended. One capital improvement, eſpecially upon the higher lands, is ſtill wanted—that of incloſures. This gives the country a bleak appearance, and deprives it of that ſhelter, which might haſten and increaſe vegetation. There is almoſt no wood in this pariſh, except about the houſe of Dunglas. The natural wood, with which it once abounded is, for want of care, almoſt entirely deſtroyed.

Population.—Table I. Average of births and marriages in every 10 years, beginning at January 1. 1671, and ending at December 31. 1790 incluſive, from the pariſh regiſter.

	Marriages.	*Births.*
From 1671, to 1680 incluſive,	10.4	25.2
To 1690, -	8	25 8

To

	Marriages.	*Births.*
To 1700, -	8	18
To 1710, -	9.8	24.1
To 1720, -	5 8	22.3
To 1730, -	4	18
To 1740, -	3.5	16
To 1750, -	4.6	12
To 1760, -	5.1	15.2
To 1770, -	5.6	15
To 1780, -	5.4	19.4
To 1790, -	6.8	11.5

Table II. Annual births and marriages for the last 10 years, viz. from January 1. 1781, to December 31. 1790 inclusive.

Years.	*Births.*	*Marriages.*	*Deaths.*
1781, -	12	2	0
1782, -	15	8	0
1783, -	11	7	0
1784, -	10	9	0
1785, -	15	0	0
1786, -	8	13	0
1787, -	13	9	0
1788, -	6	4	8
1789, -	12	8	7
1790, -	13	8	6

Table III. Numbers and employments of the inhabitants from a survey in June 1791.

1	Residing heritor with his family, amounting to	5
13	Farmers with their families, - -	59
42	Hinds with their families, - -	161
56		225

56		225
	Houſehold ſervants in the pariſh, -	57
10	Fiſhers with their families, - -	39
3	Wrights with their families, - -	15
3	Smiths with their families, - -	16
7	Weavers with their families, -	28
5	Millers with their families, - -	27
2	Shoemakers with their families, -	6
1	Taylor with his family, - -	3
1	Sadler with his family, - -	4
1	Tide-waiter with his family, - -	2
1	Toll-keeper with his family, - -	8
8	Day-labourers with their families, -	37
12	Houſeholders, being ſingle women or widows, with their families, amounting to -	23
1	Schoolmaſter with his family, - -	5
1	Clergyman with his family, - -	3
112	Total ſouls, -	498
	Total males, -	238
	Total females, -	260
	Total families, -	112

Of this number 13 families are Diſſenters.

	Population in 1755, -	622
	1791, -	498
	Decreaſe, -	124

From Table I. the pariſh appears to have been more populous about 70 years ago than at preſent. This decreaſe is owing in ſome meaſure, to the country being thrown into larger farms than formerly. Theſe require fewer hands for the labour than the ſmall farms; and the farmers wiſh to ſupport

port no more houſes upon the ground than are ſufficient for the hands employed on the farm. About the beginning of this century, there were alſo coal and ſalt-works in this pariſh, both which have been long ago given up, and the hands therein employed, removing with their families, would contribute ſomething to the decreaſe of population.

Price of Labour.—The average of wages of houſehold ſervants is, for men ſervants, 6 l. Sterling *per annum*; for a good woman ſervant, 3 l. Sterling; common day-labourers, without victuals, men, 1 s. women, 6 d. *per* day; common labourers, with victuals, *per* day, men 8 d. or 10 d. women, 4 d.; during harveſt, reapers wages vary from 8 d. to 1 s. 4 d. The greater part of the farm-work is performed by hynds, or ſervants who live in their own houſes, whoſe wives and children are alſo occaſionally employed on the farm. The yearly expence of this kind of ſervants, to the farmer, may be calculated in the following manner:

To 8 bolls oats, at 14 s. *per* boll, -	L.	5	12 0
To 3 bolls barley, at 17 s. - -		2	11 0
To 2 bolls peaſe, at 13 s. - - -		1	6 0
To 1½ bolls coals, at 6 s. - -		0	9 0
To carriage on ditto from Dunbar, -		0	2 6
To product of a firlot potatoes, - -		0	18 0
To ditto of a half peck of lintſeed, -		0	10 0
To maintenance of a cow, valued at -		3	0 0
To maintenance of a calf or follower, -		0	15 0
To 2 cart loads of whins for fuel, -		0	5 0
To victuals during the harveſt, and other incidental charges, - - -		1	0 0
Total,	L.	16	8 6

In the above account the houſe rent is not included, becauſe, for

for this, the hynd is obliged to furniſh a reaper during the harveſt, beſides his own work. Upon the above yearly income, with the induſtry of their wives and children, their families are ſupported in a comfortable and decent manner.

Fiſhing.—The fiſh caught on this coaſt are turbot, cod, ſkate, herring, haddocks, whitings, flounders, lobſters, and crabs. The uſual time of the herring fiſhing is betwixt the 20th of July and the 12th of September. Great numbers are bought up by the country people, for preſent uſe; and when they can be ſold ſo low as 1 s. or 15 d. *per* hundred, they then become an object for the merchants, by whom they are cured into white or red herrings. The lobſter fiſhing begins about the end of October, and continues till the end of April. The fiſhers are bound by a contract, for a certain number of years, to ſend them to Dunbar, for the London market, at 5 s. Sterling for ſizable lobſters, and half that ſum for the underſized ones, *per* ſcore.—The fiſhers on this coaſt uſe two kinds of boats; the largeſt, called *cobles*, are different from the fiſhing boats generally uſed, being remarkably flat in the bottom, and of a great length, meaſuring about 30 feet in keel, and 33 or 34 feet aloft from ſtem to ſtern; extreme breadth, 7½ feet, and depth, from floor to the top of the gunwale, 4 feet. Theſe are uſed only in the herring fiſhing, each carrying 4 men and a ſkipper, with 8 nets, each net being 60 yards long, and 13 yards in depth.

Prime coſt of a coble, with anchors, maſts, and ſails,	L. 28 0 0
Prime coſt of 480 yards of nets, about	50 0 0
Total coſt of a coble, fully furniſhed,	L. 78 0 0

The other boat is much ſmaller, meaſuring commonly, in length at the keel, 15 feet, from ſtem to ſtern aloft 20 feet, and the

the extreme breadth, 5½ feet. Theſe are uſed for fiſhing cod, haddocks, lobſters, &c. They carry 4 men each, and muſt be furniſhed with 1440 fathoms of long lines, 1200 fathoms of ſmall lines, and 80 lobſter creels to each boat.

Prime coſt of a ſmall boat, with maſt and ſail,	L.	4	10 0
1440 fathoms long lines, mounted with 240 hooks, &c. - - - -		6	0 0
1200 ditto ſmall lines, mounted with 2400 hooks,		4	4 0
80 lobſter creels, at 2 s. *per* creel, - -		8	0 0
Total expence of a ſmall boat and fiſhing takle,	L.	22	14 0

The fiſhers in this pariſh and in the neighbourhood are commonly decent induſtrious men; they generally marry early in life, raiſe numerous families, whom they educate and provide for in a comfortable manner, in their own line.

Church, School, and Poor.—The preſent church was built *anno* 1701, and is in good repair. The manſe was built *anno* 1677; but ſince that time has undergone ſeveral repairs, and ſome additions, and is now a good houſe. The miniſter's ſtipend, including communion elements, is, *per annum*, 80l. 11 s. 1⅓ d. Sterling paid in money. The glebe is 4 Scotch acres, of no great value. The preſent patron is Hunter of Thurſton, Eſq;—There is only one public ſchool in the pariſh, which is attended by about 40 children yearly. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 6l. 13 s. 6 d. *per annum*, with a houſe and ſmall garden. School wages are very low; teaching to read Engliſh, 1 s. 6 d. *per* quarter; writing, 2 s.; arithmetic and Latin, 2 s. 6 d. Mathematics, geometry, book-keeping, navigation, &c. are taught each by the courſe, at a guinea *per* courſe.—There are very few poor upon the pariſh roll. Theſe are ſupported by the church offerings, the money raiſed from the pall, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum belonging

to

to the pariſh, amounting in all, *communibus annis*, to 12 l. Sterling.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The number of heritors is 8. Sir James Hall of Dunglaſs, Bart. is the only reſiding heritor. The whole valued rent is 3675 l. 1 s. 10 d. Scotch; real rent, about 2000 l. Sterling. The houſe of Dunglaſs ſtands on the weſt ſide of the ſmall river, which divides Eaſt Lothian from the county of Berwick. The banks of the river are ſteep, and covered with remarkably fine wood, through which a variety of agreeable walks are cut, and kept in good repair. The Caſtle of Dunglaſs is frequently mentioned in the Scottiſh hiſtories. It belonged, for many years, to the Earl of Home's anceſtors, and from this he has the title of *Lord Dunglaſs*. It was here that James VI. lodged with his retinue, the firſt night after he left Edinburgh, on his journey to London, 1603. This fort was, by accident or treachery, blown up, *anno* 1640, when Lord Haddington, and a number of the neighbouring gentlemen, periſhed in its ruins. The preſent houſe, a modern building, is raiſed on the very ſpot where that fort ſtood. Near it ſtands an old chapel, which, though not now uſed for the purpoſe it was originally intended, is ſtill kept in good repair. It was built about the middle of the fourteenth century by Sir Thomas Hume, who married Nicolas Pipdie, heireſs of Dunglaſs.

NUMBER XLII.

PARISH OF FODDERTY.

(Counties of Cromarty and Roſs.—Preſbytery of Dingwall.—Synod of Roſs.)

By the Reverend Mr DONALD MACKENZIE.

Name and Situation.

THE name of this pariſh is of Gaelic etymology. In that language, it conſiſts of two words that are nearly deſcriptive of its ſituation: *Foigh-ritudh*, or a meadow along the ſide of a hill.—The principal part of the pariſh lies in a valley, ſurrounded with hills, to the north, weſt, and ſouth, with an extenſive opening to the eaſt. There the valley has a commanding view of the town and pariſh of Dingwall, which lies to the north-eaſt of it. The name of this valley is Strathpeffer. About three-fourths of the inhabitants of the pariſh reſide in the valley. Beſides it, there are ſeveral ſmall glens, which extend to ſome diſtance along the openings of the hills. All theſe are, however, completely inſulated from the bulk of the pariſh, being ſurrounded with the neighbouring ones, and lie much nearer the churches of Dingwall and Contin than to Fodderty. The extent of the valley is nearly two miles long, by half a mile broad.

Climate.—The air throughout the pariſh is pure and healthy; and there are many inſtances of longevity in it.

Several

Several men and women are now reſiding in the pariſh who call themſelves near 90 years of age.

Diſtempers.—There are no diſtempers peculiar to this pariſh, except ſuch as are common to the neighbouring places. The ſmall-pox often rages here, and frequently proves mortal, as inoculation has never been attempted except by a very few families, who recently introduced it with ſucceſs. The prejudice of the people is, however, very ſtrong againſt it.

Minerals.—There are appearances of coal mines in the pariſh. A perſon was, ſome time ago, employed to work a part of the coal, when it was found to be of a remarkably inflammable quality; of a clear black colour, ſo that it appeared to approach nearer to a bituminous ſubſtance than to coal.—There are ſeveral mineral ſprings here, all of which are of the ſame quality, and ſeem to be impregnated with ſulphur. One of theſe has, for about 20 years back, been of ſome note. Great numbers of the lower claſs of people from the counties of Inverneſs, Sutherland, and the weſtern diſtricts of Roſs-ſhire, have reſorted hither, and uſe the water of this mineral for all kinds of diſorders without exception. Moſt benefit has been derived from this mineral by thoſe troubled with ſcorbutic complaints, and all kinds of external ſores on the body. It has been uſed with ſucceſs in the gravel and ſtomach complaints.

Hills.—The moſt remarkable hills are, 1ſt, Beuivas, which is one of the higheſt hills in Scotland, and lies immediately to the north of this valley; 2dly, Knockfallaric. This hill is ſituated on the ſouth ſide of the valley: Its form is conical; and the vulgar tradition is, that Fingal had one of his caſtles upon the top of it. What probably gave riſe to this opinion,

opinion, was the ruins on the ſummit of it, which are yet to be ſeen. They ſurround a plain of nearly an acre in extent, and are compoſed of ſtones cemented by a vitrified ſubſtance. What the origin or the uſe of this building was, cannot eaſily be determined; but certain it is, that the work muſt have been effected at a great expence of labour, and with prodigious force of fire.

Woods.—There are great numbers of plots of aſh, hazel, and alder wood, interſperſed with the corn fields along this valley: When theſe, and the fields around them, are in verdure, it forms a beautiful ſcene. There are about 200 acres of firs lately planted upon the ſummit of the hill, to the ſouth of the valley.

Value of Stock.—There are 663 horſes, valued at 3 l. each, —value of the whole, - - - L. 1989
1500 Black cattle, valued at 3 l. each,—value of the whole, - - - - - 4500
1000 Beſt ſheep, valued at 5 s. each,—value of the whole, - - - - - - 250
2000 Inferior ditto, valued at 3 s. each,—value of the whole, - - - - - 300

Total value of ſtock, L. 7039

It is to be obſerved here, that the number of black cattle has decreaſed within theſe two years, by the introduction of ſheep farms, which has increaſed the number, and improved the breed of ſheep in the pariſh.

Population.—In 1755, the numbers were rated at 1483
At preſent, the number of ſouls is, - 1730
Number of males, - - 881
Ditto

Ditto females, - - -	849
Male ſervants, - - -	488
Female ſervants, - -	358
Male children under 7 years of age,	122
Female children under 7 years of age,	120
Number of families, - -	330

Rent and Farms.—The valued rent of this pariſh is 3543 l. 3s. 4d. Scotch money. The real rent is chiefly paid in bolls, ſo that its value is annually altering; converting theſe, however, at a moderate price, the rent is ſuppoſed to be nearly 1400 Sterling *per annum*. There are 8 proprietors in the pariſh, none of whom have ever reſided in it. There are 10 principal farmers here, who pay rent to the value of 40 l. Sterling each *per annum*; 150 ſmaller tenants, who pay from 16 l. Sterling *per annum* each, to 2 l. Sterling *per annum* each; and 100 cottars, who pay from 2 l. Sterling *per annum* each, to 2s. Sterling each *per annum*.

Crops, and Method of Culture.—The only crops raiſed here are barley, oats, peaſe, and potatoes. The old method of conſtantly *croping*, is generally followed by all the claſſes of farmers. Some attempts have of late been made by a few towards altering the ſyſtem of farming, by the introduction of ſown graſs, fallow, and turnips; but theſe eſſays have always been checked by the want of encouragement ſhown to thoſe who tried them, none of the proprietors here having ever allowed any of their tenants to derive any advantage from their improvements, or offered them any aſſiſtance to enable them to carry them on.

Manners and Employments of the People.—There is for ſome ſeaſons of the year, a very great want of induſtry among the inhabitants

inhabitants here. During the weeks of ſeed-time and harveſt they exert themſelves to a great degree; but during the remainder of the year, having no field for ſimilar exertions of induſtry, they indulge themſelves to a great degree in indolence and inactivity. The want of employment here, forces thoſe who are induſtriouſly inclined, to go and find labour in the ſouthern diſtricts of Scotland; ſo that great numbers of both ſexes, leave their homes in the months of May and June, and return again in November, with from 10 s. to 42 s. which is the fruit of their induſtry. Sloth ſeems to be the greateſt enemy to the morality of the people here, as thoſe who will not procure their own ſubſiſtence by labour, are forced to uſe diſhoneſt means for procuring it. They are much addicted to the uſe of ſpirits, and will go every length to procure it.

Church, School, and Poor.—All the inhabitants of this pariſh, except two, are of the eſtabliſhed Church, and theſe are of the Church of England. The living conſiſts of 6 chalders and a half of barley—25 l. Sterling money—a glebe, and the miniſter has a right to the ſmall tithes. The patron is Kenneth Mackenzie of Cromarty, Eſq. The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is 11 l. 2 s. Sterling. The ſchool-houſe was built *anno* 1779, and is now in a good ſtate of repair. There are now on the poors roll 50 perſons, who receive a part of their ſubſiſtence from the funds allotted to them. There are 1*ſt*, A mortification by George Earl of Cromarty to them of 12 bolls of barley *per annum*.—2*d*, The intereſt of a legacy of 80 l. Sterling, left to them by Mrs Morriſon of the iſland of Jamaica.—3*d*, The weekly collections on Sunday at church, which at an average is nearly 8 l. *per annum*.

Prices

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—The wages of a labouring man ſeldom exceeds 6 d. *per* day—of a woman 5 d. Servants are generally hired here by the year; then the terms are to a man ſervant 3 l. *per annum*, and 6 bolls meal—to a woman from 1 l. to 1 l. 15 s. *per annum*, and 5 bolls meal, when they do not receive their board. Beef and mutton ſell at an average for 3 d. *per* pound.—Pork for 2½ d. *per* pound.—Fowls at 4 d. each.

Language.—The language generally ſpoken here is Gaelic, there being but two in the pariſh who do not underſtand that language well.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF STRICHEN.

(County of Aberdeen.—Diſtrict of Buchan.—Preſbytery of Deer.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM ANDERSON.

Name and Dimenſions.

STRICHEN, (from *Strathion*, *John's Strath*), was erected into a pariſh in 1627; and conſiſts of 38 ploughs, 32 of which were taken off from the pariſh of Rathon, and the other 6 (called the 6 ploughs of Saithley), from the pariſh of Fraſerſburgh.—It conſiſts of about 8000 acres, and is of an oblong form, ſloping gradually towards the banks of the river Eugie, which pretty nearly divides the pariſh, and falls into the ſea 13 miles below, at Inverugie, near Peterhead. There are plenty of trout and eels in the river, and formerly there were a great many otters, but few of them are now to be ſeen, the breed being almoſt worn out in this part of the country.

Population —In Dr Webſter's liſt, in 1755, the population was 1158. The number of inhabitants is 1400. In 1776, a liſt was taken, and they amounted to 1100, claſſed as follows: Under 7 years of age, 178; from 7 to 80, 878; above 80, 44. The increaſe is owing to a village which has been lately built, and to dividing the farms, few of which exceed

30 l.

30 l. and the greateſt number being not above 10 l. or 12 l. Sterling of yearly rent, which is punctually paid.

Improvements.—The increaſe of population has tended not a little to the improvement of the land in this pariſh. Potatoes, turnip, flax, and artificial graſſes, were introduced about 50 years ago by the late Lord Strichen. He alſo introduced the uſe of lime for the ground, and began the improvement of the roads, which are in this pariſh kept in excellent order. The culture of flax is reckoned a conſiderable object here, which has been very much promoted by the encouragement of the Honourable the Board of Truſtees for manufactures, &c. in giving a premium for erecting a lint-mill, and diſtributing lintſeed gratis; but moſt effectually, by the eſtabliſhment of a yarn-market, which holds in the beginning of March and middle of May, at which the capital manufacturers and dealers attend; and the country people are not only ſure of a ſale, and ready money, but of the higheſt price their yarn is worth. The truſtees gave premiums of 10 l. *per annum*, for 5 years, to the perſon who purchaſed the greateſt quantity of yarn, made from flax of the growth of the country. This occaſioned a competition among the buyers, in which the ſellers found their advantage; ſo that at theſe markets, where there uſed not to be a ſingle ſpindle diſpoſed of, upwards of 4000 ſpindles have been ſold for ſome years paſt by the country people; and the markets, which promiſe to improve, are of great ſervice to all concerned, and will be of permanent uſe to the country.

Price of Labour.—The price of labour is conſiderably increaſed of late, and is daily riſing. The yearly wages of a man ſervant is 5 l.; a maid ſervant, 2 l. 10 s. with their maintainance;

tainance; a houſe-carpenter, 1 s. *per* day; a maſon, 1 s. 4 d.; ordinary labourers, 8 d. and 9 d.; a hay-cutter, 1 s. 6 d. and a reaper, 1 s.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was built in 1627, but has been repaired and enlarged ſince. The ſtipend (including 1 l. 17 s. 6 d. for providing communion elements), is 30 l. in money, 3 chalders of meal, and 15 acres of land given the late incumbent, by a private agreement, inſtead of an augmentation in money. This deed was executed by the late Lord Strichen, with the unanimous approbation of the preſbytery about 40 years ago. The patron is Mr Fraſer of Strichen.—The ſchool, including ſalary, ſcholars fees, and other perquiſites, may be worth about 30 l. a year. The ſchoolmaſter has a very neat houſe of two ſtories high, and a glebe of 8 acres, given him by the late Lord Strichen.—There are 30 poor on the liſt: About 30 l. Sterling is divided among them, according to their neceſſities, ariſing from the collections in the church, mort-cloth dues, and the intereſt of about 140 l. which belongs to the ſeſſion. In 1783, they ſunk upwards of 60 l. out of their funds, in purchaſing and lowering the price of grain for the uſe of the pariſh.

Village.—There is a village in the pariſh, which was founded in 1764, containing 200 inhabitants. There are a good many weavers, and other tradeſmen in it; and the lint-mill, bleachfield, and other improvements, which are going on in the neighbourhood, afford conſtant employment to labourers, ſo that it is in a thriving ſtate, and increaſing. It has a charter for a weekly market. There is a poſt-office in it, and good roads to it in every direction.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The whole pariſh, unleſs a very

ry inconſiderable part, belongs to Alexander Fraſer, Eſq. There are ſeveral plantations of fir and foreſt trees in the pariſh, made and planted by the late Lord Strichen, which, from the beauty of contraſt, make a great addition to the appearance of the place, in a country where there is little wood. Among theſe plantations, there are a good many old trees, (ſuppoſed to have been planted about the beginning of the laſt century, 150 circles being counted on ſome of them, which were cut down 35 years ago). They drew a compliment from the late Dr Johnſton, who ſays, in his Tour through Scotland, that "he had travelled 200 miles, and "had only ſeen one tree not younger than himſelf; but at "Strichen, he ſaw trees of full growth, worthy of his no-"tice."—The animals and bird tribe are the ſame that are common in the reſt of the country. There have been, for 40 years paſt, great numbers of the regulus, or golden creſted wren, goldfinches, thruſhes, and lapwings, all of which have been in the cuſtom of building and hatching here. Of late the goldfinches have quite diſappeared, and the lapwings are much fewer. Black-birds, ring ouzel, and dobchick, which uſed to come only in winter, with great flocks of ſnow birds, and fieldfares, remain now, and build their neſts; the ſnow-birds and fieldfares leave the country in May. Of late years, in the month of November, bulfinches, Carolina chatterers, and different kinds of woodpeckers, make their appearance, and continue through the winter.—The pariſh has the advantage of an excellent lime quarry in the center of it, and of great plenty of peat for firing. There are 5 well frequented yearly markets held in it. The people are, in general, ſober and induſtrious, go neat and clean, and are of an extremely obliging benevolent diſpoſition.—The ſtones on the ſide of an high hill in this pariſh are of a whitiſh colour, and of the nature of the white flint, of which porcelain is made.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF LESMAHAGOE.

(*County of Lanark.—Preſbytery of Lanark.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.*)

Name, Situation, Boundaries, Surface, &c.

THE name of this pariſh is very antient; it is of Celtic origin, and is ſaid to be derived from *Les* or *Lis*, a green or garden, and *Macute*, the name of the tutelar ſaint of the place, who is reported to have been a biſhop and confeſſor of the 6th century, thus ſignifying St. Macute's Green, which, in latter times, has been changed into Abbeygreen, the preſent name of the village built round the church, formerly belonging to a monaſtery now demoliſhed, which ſtood hard by it, and was a priory, dependent on the Abbey of Kelſo. All that remains of this antient building is a ſquare tower, with battlements upon the tops of the walls. It is now covered with a pavilion roof, having a belfrey on the top, and ſerves for the ſteeple of the preſent church, which ſtands adjoining to it.

This monaſtery was founded by King David I. in the year 1140. The church belonging to it was dedicated to St. Mary. This church, which appears by the marks of the beams in the wall of the tower, to have been much loftier than the preſent one, has been twice deſtroyed by fire; firſt by John Planta-

Plantagenet, brother to Edward III. King of England; and a ſecond time at the Reformation, when all the ancient monuments and relics were deſtroyed by the reformers. And indeed the marks of conflagration ſeem ſtill viſible on the wall of the tower, on the ſide adjoining to the church.

The pariſh is ſituated in the upper ward of the county of Lanark, in the preſbytery of that name, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is of a broad oval figure, the longeſt diameter being about 14 miles, and the ſhorteſt about 12. It lies upon the ſouth-weſt ſide of the river Clyde, which runs along the border of it for about 9 or 10 miles; and in this courſe are the ſtupendous falls of the river at Bonnitown, Corhouſe, and Stonbyres, ſo well known, and repeatedly deſcribed.

The banks of the Clyde in this pariſh are very bold, riſing, in many places, abruptly into hills of a conſiderable height, every where divided by deep gullies, formed by the numerous brooks and torrents which fall into the river. The intermixture of coppice woods, plantations of foreſt trees, and ſloping open glades, of ſwelling eminences, deep ravines, and towering hills, on both ſides of the river, added to the windings of its copious ſtream, and the magnificent falls above mentioned, exhibit to the eye of the paſſenger, at every change of ſituation, new landſcapes ſtrikingly ſublime and beautiful.

The ſoil is various. Part of the northern corner of the pariſh is of a clayey nature, but light friable moulds are more frequent; in ſome places it is ſandy, in others ſtoney and gravelly. The face of the country is every where uneven; and towards the ſouth and weſt becomes very mountainous, and the ſoil moſſy and muiriſh. The tops of the mountains are covered with bent, graſs, and heath; towards the bottoms, where moſs does not prevail, there are green paſtures and arable lands.

lands. Upon the whole, the ſoil of the pariſh is far from being of the moſt fertile quality, and is better adapted to paſturage than tillage. Here it deſerves to be remarked, that tillage has been purſued to a much greater extent, at ſome former period, than at preſent; for there are every where to be found, even almoſt to the ſummits of the higheſt mountains, large tracts of land, which have been regularly formed into ridges, and ſmoothed by repeated culture, now overgrown with bent, heath, and moſſes. How it comes to paſs, that land on which corn would not now ripen, ſhould have been attentively cultivated ſome centuries ago, is left to the curious to enquire; for there is no tradition to be traced here, which would ſerve to throw any light upon the ſubject*.

The moſt remarkable mountains are the great range which ſeparates this pariſh from thoſe of Douglas and Muirkirk, called the Cumberheadhills, the Knotberrylaw, the Warlaw, the Todlaw, the Birkenhead, and the Grayſtonehill, on the weſt ſide; the Blackhill, the Dullars, and the Boreland, towards the Clyde, on the eaſt ſide.

Rivers.—The Logan riſes in the range of mountains which divides this pariſh from Muirkirk; and running eaſtward for 6 miles joins the Nethan, which has its ſource in the ſame mountains, a few miles to the eaſt. The joint ſtream, which then takes the name of Nethan, runs north and eaſt through the pariſh, dividing it nearly into two equal halves, and falls into the Clyde a little above where the pariſhes of Dalſerf and

* It alſo appears, that this part of the country is leſs fertile than formerly, by an old charter belonging to the monaſtery, which mentions a conſiderable quantity of wheat, payable from the neighbouring lands. Few people now attempt to cultivate wheat on theſe lands; and ſuch as have tried it have abandoned it from ill ſucceſs.

and Leſmahagoe meet. This is a beautiful paſtoral ſtream; the banks of which are finely diverſified with hanging woods, ſloping paſtures, and cornfields. The Ponicle runs along the ſouth border of the pariſh, till it falls into the Douglas river; and afterwards the united river, the banks of which are highly pictureſque, forms the boundary on that ſide. The little river Kype divides this from the pariſh of Avondale. The Calner, which runs northward, and ſeparating the pariſhes of Stonehouſe and Dalſerf, falls into the Avon, takes its riſe in the weſtern part of this pariſh, in the eſtate of Blackwood, by the proprietors of which its banks have been adorned with ſtately groves of foreſt trees. Beſides theſe, numberleſs brooks, and fountains of the pureſt water, flow from the ſides of every hill.

In the Nethan and Logan, as well as the rivers by which the pariſh is bounded, are found plenty of trout and ſilver eel. Salmon, alſo, from the Clyde, go up the Nethan, and even to the Logan, in the month of Auguſt, and ſpawn there; but a cruive now put acroſs the mouth of the firſt, obſtructs them greatly, and is likewiſe thought to have diminiſhed the number of trouts.

Air.—The ſituation of the pariſh being elevated, the air is ſomewhat moiſt, and ſo cold and ſharp as greatly to retard the progreſs of vegetation in the ſpring, conſequently the harveſt is not early. In autumn, too, the froſty vapours ſettle in the narrow plains in the neighbourhood of the mountains, and frequently injure the crops. The air, however, ſeems not to be unfavourable to animal life. The inhabitants are healthy and robuſt, little ſubject to diſeaſes. There are ſeveral inſtances of vigorous longevity among them; from which the following is ſelected as being known to the writer. J—— Porteous, about 20 years ago, after having compleated the hundredth year of his age, walked from his houſe

houſe near the village of Abbeygreen to Hamilton, 12 miles diſtant, and after having done his little buſineſs, returned the ſame day alſo on foot. He lived 5 or 6 years after; and enjoyed ſome degree of health and vigour almoſt to the laſt.

Foſſils.—There is a great variety of minerals in this pariſh, which might furniſh ample field for the inveſtigations of the mineralogiſt and the philoſopher. The rocks and ſtones in the bed of the river Clyde, oppoſite to Stonebyres, and indeed almoſt all the ſtones which appear in that neighbourhood, are of the colour of burnt bricks, and look as if they had ſuffered the action of fire. The ſtrata of rock in the bed of the Nethan, which moſtly lie in a ſituation very much inclined, have a different appearance, and ſeem to be of a different quality, at every few paces as one paſſes along. Among theſe, a gentleman of ſome ſkill in mineralogy, who was, ſome years ago, on a viſit in the pariſh, aſſerted that he diſcovered the real porcelain earth in a petrified form. In this river are found large maſſes formed of ſmall ſtones of different kinds, united by a ſubſtance which ſeems to have been in fuſion; and alſo various petrifactions, particularly pieces of wood of different ſizes. The Cumberhead mountains are known to contain veins of lead, which are ſaid to be very rich. Attempts were made to work them in the year 1720, and again in the year 1758; but, from ſome miſmanagement, miſgave. Coal is found in different parts of the pariſh. Pit coal has been wrought at Stockbridge, Coalburn, Gunſgreen, and Weſtown; and is ſold at the pit from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. *per* ton. There is alſo wrought at Woodſhouſe, belonging to the Duke of Hamilton; at Auchenheath, belonging to Mr Weir of Blackwood; and at Blair, belonging to Lord Douglas, beds of an inflammable ſubſtance, having ſome reſemblance of jet, here called candle-coal, or light coal, much valued for the ſtrong bright flame which it emits in burning.

This

This is ſold for about 5 s. *per* ton, and ſome of it is carried to places 40 or 50 miles diſtant. Peats, which when dried are almoſt as hard as coal, and burn with a ſtrong flame, are dug in ſeveral moſſes in this pariſh. Beds of iron-ſtone are ſeen in different parts of the pariſh. Beds of lime, of a great thickneſs and excellent quality, are found very near the ſurface in many places. Some of theſe beds are not leſs than 30 feet thick; and the quality of the lime ſo good, that upon an analyſis 29 parts of 30 have been found to be pure calcareous earth. Various petrifactions, ſuch as ſhells of different figures, parts of the ſculls and horns of ſheep, and bits of ſticks, are found in the lime quarries. In the upper part of the pariſh marl has been lately diſcovered. In one place there is a vein of grey marble, blocks of which ſome old people mention to have been carried to Hamilton houſe and Douglas houſe, but it is not known how it proved. There is alſo ſome appearance of a ſlate quarry in a moor called Dunſide moor; but as it has not yet been fully explored, the quality is not aſcertained. Huge maſſes of granite or whin rock, form the baſis of the mountains on the weſt ſide of the pariſh. Amidſt this great variety of foſſils, free ſtone of a good quality for building, is obtained only in a few places; ſome of the quarries, however, are of a remarkable good quality, particularly on the banks of the Nethan, where large blocks of ſtone are cut, which are ſo beautifully veined, and take ſo fine a poliſh, that it gets the name of Craignethan marble, and is much valued for columns and ſteps of large ſtairs.

Cattle, Cultivation, and Produce.—It has been already obſerved, that the greateſt part of this diſtrict, from the inequality of the ſurface, the nature of the ſoil, and the great elevation of the country, is better adapted for paſture than cul-

tivation. The high mooriſh parts of the pariſh are chiefly applied to rearing and paſturing ſheep, and ſome are kept through the whole. The number is about 7000. Thoſe of the moors are generally black faced and black legged—have very rough coarſe wool, and are always ſmeared with tar. They are of a little ſize, but hardy and well boned, and feed to a conſiderable weight when put upon rich paſture. Some of mixed breeds, of larger body, and finer wool, are kept on the lower grounds. The number of cows kept are about 1600, beſides young ones which the farmers are always rearing; of which there cannot be leſs than 400 bred annually. The diſtrict contains 130 ploughgates; and no great refinement in agriculture being yet introduced, 4 horſes are for the moſt part yoked to each plough, ſo that the number of horſes are about 520, beſides young ones annually reared, probably about 100. The horſes in this part of the country were formerly of a ſmall ſize, and ill ſhaped; but of late the breed is much improved, and horſes of a conſiderable value are now reared here. There are alſo 12 horſes kept by carriers in and round the village, who carry goods to and from different places. The people of this part of Scotland had formerly a ſuperſtitious prejudice againſt ſwine; but now there are a number reared and fed in this pariſh. It does not appear, however, to be a very advantageous kind of economy to feed hogs in a barren country, where every thing the land produces can generally be otherways conſumed to greater advantage. It can only be beneficial for farmers who keep no more hogs than they can ſupport, on ſuch of the offals of their dairy as they can turn to no other purpoſe, and feed them up in the autumn with potatoes. Of thoſe animals there may be about 70 or 80 killed in this pariſh annually.

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As the greateſt part of this pariſh, from the nature of its ſoil, expoſure, and climate, is not the moſt inviting ſubject for cultivation, ſo neither have improvements in agriculture made great progreſs in it. Fallowing is not practiſed, except in a few farms in the lower ground; nor is paring and burning the thick turf on the old paſture, which would tend much to forward vegetation in a cold country, thought of. The ancient diſtinctions of croft and outfield are ſtill kept up; and the greateſt part of the manure made about the farm laid upon the former. The latter, after lying a few years in paſture, and ſometimes a little compoſt laid upon it, is cropped with oats for two or three years, and again left to reſt. Upon the crofts the ſeeds of clover and rye-graſs are now frequently ſown, and a crop or two of hay taken; and after the land has been two or three years paſtured, it is cropped, firſt with peaſe, then with barley, with two plowings and dung, next oats, &c. Lime, except by a few people, is but ſparingly applied. The Scotch plough, nearly in the ſame ſtate as it has been for this century paſt, is almoſt univerſally uſed, it being only near the Clyde where any modern improvement is begun to be introduced.

There is no wheat raiſed in this diſtrict, except in the low parts in the north corner of this pariſh. Oats are the principal grain; and, from the report of the tenants of the mills in which they are ground, the quantity produced ſeems to have greatly diminiſhed in the courſe of the laſt 20 years. Whether this deficiency be owing to the land having been formerly exhauſted—to leſs favourable ſeaſons—to a leſs ſkilfull or leſs attentive culture—or whether it be not from deficiency of produce, but from the corn being conſumed otherways than by grinding it into meal, it is not pretended here to determine. It is certainly in ſome part owing to the laſt; for in the firſt place, farmers, whether purely from the pride of

ſeeing

ſeeing their horſes make a better appearance, or whether they find that they enhance the value of the animal, in the full proportion of the additional food given it, allow their horſes more oats than formerly; and ſecondly, the number of horſes, and the demand for oats to feed them, having greatly increaſed in the country of late years, huſbandmen frequently find it more advantageous to ſell their oats unmanufactured, than to make them into meal, eſpecially in backward ſeaſons, when the oats are leſs productive. The barley of this pariſh has been eſteemed of a good quality, not indeed large bodied, but plump and thin huſked. Upon the ſale of this grain the farmers formerly chiefly depended for payment of their rents; but it is a fact, not leſs remarkable, nor leſs difficult to be accounted for, that the quantity of it produced is alſo diminiſhed. The concurring teſtimony of every huſbandman advanced in life confirms this fact. Undoubtedly, therefore, either the ſeaſons of late muſt have been unfavourable to cultivation, or a leſs accurate and diligent culture muſt now prevail. Probably both muſt be taken into the account. While the cold backward ſprings have diſcouraged the delicate growth of the new ſprung crop, the roots of the various kinds of hardy weeds, which have been allowed to accumulate in the ſoil from defective culture, have ſprung up to choke it. Peaſe ſeldom prove a valuable crop in this pariſh. They are frequently either overrun by the numerous weeds which thrive greatly in the light ſoil, or puſhed too much to ſtraw by the latter rains, and yield little grain. Such has been ſo much the caſe of late years, that the huſbandmen have been greatly diſcouraged in cultivating them, and many ſow fewer than formerly. There is but a ſmall part of this pariſh on which it has been thought prudent to attempt the culture of beans. Flax is only cultivated in ſmall quantities for domeſtic uſe; but from the valuable

returns

returns which have frequently been obtained from theſe, it is reaſonable to think that much of the land is well adapted to the growth of that plant. The culture of turnip, for which much of the ſoil is alſo well adapted, has not yet been attempted to any conſiderable extent, nor with that aſſiduity neceſſary to make it advantageous. Every huſbandman plants potatoes, to the extent, perhaps, of half an acre to a ploughgate, at an average; and this root ſucceeds extremely well in moſt places, when ſufficient pains is beſtowed on the culture. There are no conſiderable orchards in this pariſh; but towards the foot of the Nethan, and all along the Clyde below the falls, apple, pear, and plum trees are planted in every little garden; and in thoſe narrow warm vallies, ſheltered by the high land on all ſides, theſe trees, particularly the plum trees, generally produce a conſiderable quantity of good fruit.

Beſides annual productions a conſiderable quantity of wood grows in the pariſh, much of the hanging ground by the ſides of the different rivers being clothed with coppices. Some of theſe are very extenſive, particularly Stonebyres woods, which are arranged into ſuch a number of lots, that one of them is always ready to cut annually, for the ſale of ſuch ſmall timber as is commonly uſed in the country. Only the banks of the Logan and the Kype are naked, they having their courſes through high mooriſh ground, the bottom of which is whin rock, for the moſt part adverſe to the growth of timber. The juniper tree, a plant not to be found in the neighbouring country, abounds on the ſides of the hills in the eaſtern part of this pariſh.

State of Property.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 9841 l. Scotch. The Duke of Hamilton is the greateſt proprietor. There is only beſides part of the eſtates of Blackwood, Stonebyres,

byres, and ſome farms formerly belonging to the Hamiltons of Raplock, which are held immediately of the Crown; all the reſt is either the property of the ſaid Duke, or held of him in feu.

There are ſeveral undivided commons of conſiderable extent, on which the adjoining proprietors have a right of paſturage, according to ſome eſtabliſhed proportion; but theſe are all mooriſh grounds, which do not ſeem capable of very important improvements.

Population.—In 1755, the numbers were 2996. By an exact enumeration of the inhabitants taken by the miniſters this year, it appears there are, of houſes or families in villages, - - - - - - 108
Ditto in the country, - - - - 424

532

Containing males, 10 years and upwards, - 1069
under 10, - - 271

1340

——— females, 10 years and upwards, - 1173
under 10, - - 297

1470

Souls in all 2810

Of theſe there are,
Gentlemen and huſbandmen, - - 181
Blackſmiths, - 17
Weavers, - - 62
Shoemakers, - 16
Maſons, - - 40
Carpenters, of all ſorts, 21
Taylors, - - 26
Miners, - - 23
Butchers, - - 3
Day-labourers, - 54
Practitioners of medicine, 2
Dyer and fuller, - 1

There are 7 corn mills, 2 lint mills, and 1 fulling mill.

The

The population of this pariſh ſeems to have been conſiderably upon the increaſe during the firſt part of the preſent century. There is ſtill extant an examination liſt of the one half of the pariſh, made out by the Reverend Mr Robert Black in the 1705, containing the names of 840 examinable perſons; and, ſuppoſing both halves to have been then, as they are at preſent, nearly equally populous, the total inhabitants, who were deemed examinable, were 1680. But the late Reverend Mr Thomas Wharry, who was a native of the pariſh, had filled firſt the one cure, and then the other, and was miniſter for 50 years, has left an accurate examination liſt of the whole pariſh, enumerated with his own hand, which contains 2448 names, of 10 years old and upwards, taken in the year 1730; and, ſuppoſing thoſe under 10 years to be, as at preſent, a little more than a fourth more, the number of ſouls was then above 3000. The ſame gentleman has alſo left a copy of anſwers to queries, from a committee of the General Aſſembly, in which he ſays, the number of perſons above 10 years was between 2900 and 3000. This paper has no date; but it is probably the anſwer to the inquiry ſet on foot by Dr Webſter about the year 1755, as Mr Wharry was often heard ſay, in the latter part of his life, that the number of examinable perſons was about 3000. He died in the year 1761. Since that period, the number of the people has been upon the decreaſe, as well as the fertility of the ſoil.

	Baptiſms.		*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
	Boys.	*Girls.*		
1788,	40	39	23	33
1789,	38	33	19	30
1790,	34	35	14	39

Manufactures.—Manufacture here has not advanced far beyond

beyond its rude domeſtic ſtate. Many of the houſe-wives not only manufacture the greateſt part of the wearing apparel for their reſpective families, but have their wool and flax wrought up into yarn or cloth for ſale in the neighbouring markets. Some of the weavers are employed in this way; others by the manufacturers in great towns, in weaving fine linen and cotton cloths. The women belonging to the villages and cottages are moſtly employed in ſpinning linen-yarn for the manufacturers in other places, there being people who go about to diſtribute the flax, and receive the yarn.

Though this pariſh has not yet made great advances, it is not improbable it may one day make a conſiderable figure among the neighbouring diſtricts, ſhould the various materials which may be collected from its ſurface, or drawn from its bowels, attract the attention of the opulent and enterprifing. If it ſhall be found, by means of the patriotic experiments now making by the Society for the improvement of Britiſh wool, that the bleak mountains here, on which ſheep only of the coarſeſt fleece now ſtray, are equally capable of rearing thoſe which will yield plenty of fine ſoft wool; if flax were cultivated with all the attention which the ſoil ſeems to invite; theſe, with the various treaſures which lie buried under ground, would furniſh an ample fund of employment and wealth to a numerous people; while the abundance of fuel, and the many ſprings and water falls, would be ready inſtruments to facilitate every undertaking. At the ſame time, a more improved and populous ſociety would tend to enlighten the minds, and ſtimulate the induſtry of the peaſantry; to improve the land, and ſpread a pleaſant verdure over fields, new clothed in *ſombre* heath.

Character.—Among the people here, more of the features of the ancient Britiſh character may be traced, than in more cultivated

cultivated diſtricts. Open and frank in their manners; keen in their attachments; chearful to return favours, and no leſs ardent to reſent affronts; equally ignorant of the cautious reſerve of people hackneyed in the ways of men, and averſe to the plodding perſeverance acquired in the more buſy walks of ſociety. The general tenor of their moral deportment is decent and regular; and few among them have been accuſed of enormities. Their bodies are, for the moſt part, ſtout, brawny, and active. The language ſpoken is the broad Scotch dialect, with this peculiarity, very obſervable to ſtrangers, that the voice is raiſed, and the ſound lengthened upon the laſt ſyllable of the ſentence.

Church, School, and Poor.—The Duke of Hamilton is patron of the pariſh. The church is old, dark, and inconvenient, ſcarcely large enough to contain the ordinary auditory. The cure is ſupplied by two clergymen. The ſtipend of the ſecond charge is 16 bolls of victual, and 63 l. 17 l. 9⅓ d. Sterling in money, with a houſe and garden. The ſtipend of the firſt charge is 95 bolls of meal, and 41 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling, in money, with a manſe, and glebe of 8 acres. The people are moſtly attached to the eſtabliſhed Church, and very regular in attending religious worſhip. There are a few Seceders of different ſects; but none of the bitterneſs of religious party prevails, the greateſt harmony and good neighbourhood ſubſiſting between the different ſects.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 12 l. Sterling, beſides ſchool wages, and his emoluments as ſeſſion-clerk and treaſurer of the poor's funds. There is a dwelling-houſe for the ſchoolmaſter, and a houſe for teaching. Engliſh, Latin, writing, arithmetic, geometry, &c. are taught at this ſchool; and many of the youth of the pariſh who have purſued the ſtudy of divinity, and other branches of literature, have received the firſt elements of

their education here. Among theſe, the late Dr William Smellie, who was afterwards ſo much celebrated for his knowledge and ſucceſs in the obſtetric art, muſt not be omitted. There are, beſides, always 8 or 10 private ſchools, principally for teaching Engliſh and writing, in the pariſh.—The funds for the ſupport of the poor are as follows:

Amount of former ſavings and ſmall ſums bequeathed by different perſons, 125 l. 19 s. 2 d.; the intereſt of which, at 5 l. *per cent.* -	L.	6	5 11
Andrew Leiper mortified a piece of land rented at	2	10	0
In the year 1774, the pariſh was firſt aſſeſſed for the maintenance of the poor. The annual amount of the rates was then 80 l. which has been ſince reduced to - - -	60	0	0
Annual average ariſing from collections at the church-doors, proclamation of banns, and pall lent at burials, - - - -	46	14	3
Total annual amount of poor's funds,	L. 115	10	2

From which 45 poor perſons regularly receive a monthly aſſiſtance, according to their wants, beſides ſome indigent people occaſionally relieved. The poor were formerly more numerous.

Roads and Bridges.—Beſides the bridge over the Clyde lately mentioned, there are 3 bridges over the Nethan, on different roads; one of which is upon the poſt road, which runs through this pariſh, from Glaſgow to Carliſle. On the ſame road is a bridge over the Ponicle, by which this is joined to Douglas pariſh. There are ſeveral other arches over the other rivers and brooks, where moſt neceſſary. Many of the roads through this pariſh are ſteep and inconvenient, partly owing to the great inequality of the ſurface, and

and partly to a want of proper attention to the nature of the country, at the firſt laying of them out; whence more eaſy and convenient tracks, which might have been got by making ſmall deviations, have been diſregarded. A bill is now propoſed to be brought into Parliament for making a road from Lanark to Hamilton, to paſs through this pariſh, along the banks of the Clyde, to wind along in a level courſe, ſhunning all ſudden riſings and declivities, which, when executed, will not only greatly promote the internal intercourſe through this part of the country, but entertain the paſſenger with a view of the moſt majeſtic natural ſcenery.

NUM-

NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF CRAIGNISH.

(County of Argyle.—Preſbytery of Inveraray.—Synod of Argyle.)

By the Reverend Mr LACHLAN M'LACHLAN.

Soil and Climate.

THIS pariſh is ſituated on the ſhore of the Atlantic. The country is low and level. The ſoil in general is fertile. It is a mould in which the clay predominates.—It is not deep, but it is true; and will not diſappoint the huſbandman who will beſtow any labour or expence in the cultivation of it. But the climate, which is extremely moiſt and variable, often blaſts the moſt flattering appearance, and diſappoints the farmer's hope. The air, owing to the vicinity of the weſtern ocean, and the clouds thence rolled in by the S. W. wind, is continually, for nine months in the year at leaſt, charged with vapour; and in the months of July and Auguſt, which determine the fate of the barley and oats, there is generally ſuch moiſt rainy weather, that the crop either lodges, or never fills; and, upon the whole, the average return from oats is not above three ſeeds, nor from barley above four ſeeds.—Sometimes a furious gale from the N. W. blackens and breaks the potatoe ſtalks, and deprives the poor people

ple of the only ſtaff which they have to lean to for ſubſiſtence. This was remarkably the caſe in the 1790.

But the climate, though unfriendly to agriculture, is quite ſalutary to the human ſpecies, and every other animal. The people enjoy good health.—Though no remarkable inſtances of longevity have, for ſome time paſt, occurred among them, they in general arrive at the ordinary period preſcribed to the human race; and ſome of them who are verging towards 80, poſſeſs an uncommon degree of bodily ſtrength and mental vigour. Far removed from that intercourſe which, while it poliſhes the manners, corrupts the heart, and undermines the conſtitution of man, it was their happineſs to have led a ſimple frugal life; and as they were ſtrangers to thoſe exceſſes to which luxury leads, they are now unacquainted with thoſe diſtempers which it generates. The fever, indeed, is the greateſt enemy they have to dread. Some inſtances of a dropſy in the belly occurs; and, it is affirmed by the aged, upon whoſe experience and obſervation in this caſe we muſt reſt, that this complaint is much more prevalent through the whole country, than it was 50 or 60 years ago, and that it is becoming more general. Suppoſing this to be a fact it is not eaſy to account for it. The cauſe, however, which is commonly aſſigned, and which ſeems moſt obvious and plauſible, is the immoderate uſe of the potatoe root.—What quantity of wholeſome nouriſhment this plant is naturally qualified to impart to the human frame cannot be determined; but it is well known, from experience, to need the aſſiſtance of animal food, or ſome other nouriſhing ſubſtance, in order to ſupport the frame in any kind of vigour; and, if without this, it can be ſuppoſed to have any tendency to contaminate the animal juices, the above reaſon will appear more probable, becauſe the poor people live almoſt wholly on this root.—Beef they cannot afford to eat, and they are almoſt equally

ſtrangers

ſtrangers to mutton.—Nay, for a conſiderable part of the year, while the potatoes abound, many of them do not taſte bread.

Tides and Fiſh.—In the channel between this pariſh and the iſlands to the weſt, the tide is very rapid, and the ſea generally very boiſterous. The tide of flood ſets in from the Iriſh Channel, between the main-land and the iſland of Jura. A branch ſtrikes off to the weſt, between Jura and Scorba, through the narrow gullet called in Gaelic *Corryvracken*, or the Gulf of Brachan. The tide of ebb ſets down this channel from the north, and a branch puſhes in from the weſt through the above gulf with uncommon violence. The rage of the tide in this narrow paſs, eſpecially when irritated by the winds, is inconceivable. The people, at the turn of the tide, fiſh about it in moderate weather; but in the calmeſt day they muſt make for the ſhore, before the tide ſhall acquire any degree of ſtrength. Another branch of the channel tide paſſes to and repaſſes from Lochcrinan to the ſouth, by the point of Craigniſh. At the point, and between two iſlands which lie a little to the weſt, it is remarkably violent; and ſtrangers in open boats have often been fatally deceived by keeping cloſe to the land for ſecurity. Some years ago in particular, two ſmall boats were loſt in this current. They were part of a frail fleet from the North Iſles, loaded with fiſh, and preſſing under every diſadvantage round the Mull of Kintyre to a market.

The only fiſh that is caught in any quantity on the coaſt is a kind of grey fiſh called Seathe. When the weather admits of it, this fiſh may be had in great abundance. In an evening and morning, the only time of the day when it will take the fly, a man may, to his own ſhare, catch 9 or 10 ſcore. The fiſh, indeed, is not very delicate, but it is wholeſome;

ſome; and it yields a conſiderable quantity of oil, which is often ſold at 16 d. *per* Scotch pint. Perhaps cod and ling might be found; but no attempt has been made to diſcover the banks which they haunt. Indeed, while the country ſhall remain in its preſent depreſſed condition, without trade and without manufactures to collect its inhabitants, to increaſe conſumption, and circulate money, it is morally impoſſible that the exertions of induſtry ſhould, in this, or any other reſpect, aim at more than bare ſubſiſtence. The herring ſometimes find their way to the ſmall creeks upon the coaſt; but the great tide is ſo near, that they are ſoon ſwept away; and, as this kind of fiſhing is precarious, the people are ſeldom properly prepared for it. If, however, they continue for any time upon the coaſt, a man with a few nets will more than ſupply his own family. The price depends on the quantity of ſalt in the country at the time. If this commodity, as often happens, is ſcarce, it is vain to fiſh more than they can eat, until a ſupply ſhall come from Ireland; but if there is plenty of ſalt, the herrings will ſell at 1 s. and ſometimes 1 s. 6 d. *per* hundred. When a ſupply from Ireland is mentioned, it is proper to obſerve, that ſalt, under the preſent ſyſtem of management, is an article with which the people in the Highlands can never be properly ſupplied. The want of ſtores judiciouſly diſpoſed through the country—the bonds and proviſos that ſtand in the way, render it impoſſible to make a general proviſion for a herring fiſhing which, on many parts of the coaſt, is tranſitory and precarious. Thus ſmuggling is encouraged, nay, made neceſſary; and thus the fiſhing in general is diſcouraged—and thus many opportunities of contributing leſs or more to the wealth and proſperity of the nation, are for ever loſt.

Population,

Population.—In 1755,	769	Farmers above 50 l. *per annum*, -	5
In 1760,	650	Ditto under 50 l. -	48
In 1791,	770	Innkeeper, -	1
Number of males,	375	Smith, - -	1
Females, -	395	Carpenters, -	2
Married persons,	294	Male farm servants,	17
Children at an average from each marriage, -	3	Female ditto, -	31
		Weavers, - -	8
Unmarried men above 50, - -	2	Shoemakers, -	4
		Taylors, - -	5
Unmarried women above 45, -	3	Poor, - -	12
		Annual income, 5 l. 10 s.	
Widowers, -	9	Young persons taught	
Widows, -	27	English, writing, &c.	40
Seceders, -	2	Latin, - -	3
Proprietors residing,	2	Boats, - -	38
Non-residing, -	3	Ploughs, - -	32
Surgeon, -	1	Children under 10,	211
Schoolmaster, -	1	Ditto from 10 to 20,	90

Valued rent in Scots money, 2197 l. 17 s.

Real rent, *anno* 1791, in Sterling, 1500 l.

Number of horses, 118, average at 7 l. -	826	0	0
Black cattle, 903, ditto at 4 l. -	3612	0	0
Sheep, 1130, ditto at 5 s. 6 d. -	310	15	0
	L. 4748	15	0

Cultivation and Productions.—In this, as in most Highland parishes, the people follow the old system of agriculture with little or no variation. They have neither skill nor encouragement to attempt any material change. They hold their farms, some of them, on short or no leases. They are subjected

jected to ſervitudes, which muſt be performed at whatever time they are exacted. Their fields are neither regularly formed, nor properly incloſed; and there is no lime, marl, or ſhell ſand which they can conveniently get to improve their land. Theſe circumſtances concurring with the natural indolence of the people, lead to an eaſy conjecture of the conſequence,—*Squalent arva, ſqualentque coloni.* But, though their mode of cultivation is injudicious, and their efforts in the proſecution of it are feeble, they derive much advantage from implements of huſbandry, lighter and better conſtructed than thoſe formerly uſed, particularly the plough. They all now have neat light ploughs, which, with two horſes, perform more work than the old machines could do with four. Carts have been lately introduced; and more would be uſed, were the roads made paſſable for ſuch carriages. But theſe are quite neglected. The ſtatute labour is not employed on them; and it is probable the commutation for it will not for ſome time produce any material alteration. The planting of potatoes in drills is another change which has lately taken place in their mode of cultivation. By this change the labour is diminiſhed, and the produce increaſed. But they alledge, that the ground is ſooner exhauſted by this than by the other method of planting. The only crops raiſed in the pariſh are oats, barley, and potatoes. The quality of their oats is, of late, greatly improved. The black oats, the only ſeed formerly uſed, they have baniſhed; and they are at much pains in getting good clean ſeed from the low country. As Mr Campbell of Craigniſh is the only man in the pariſh who has his farm ſubdivided, and in proper order for improvement, he is the only man who ſows graſs ſeeds. Laſt year he had a good number of acres under clover and rye-graſs, and had 200 ſtone *per* acre of return. Were the farms put in proper condition, and the people en-

couraged to follow his example, much advantage would reſult to the inhabitants; for, in ſuch a moiſt and changeable climate, they might depend upon green crops with greater ſecurity than on any other. They ſow their oats in the latter end of March, and their barley in the beginning of May. The latter they reap in Auguſt, and the former in October, and later, if the ſeaſon is cold; but all that they reap from their labour is not ſufficient for the whole year. Every ſummer they buy ſome meal.

Language.—The Gaelic or Celtic is the only language of the inhabitants, though they, in general, can ſpeak a little Engliſh. The names of places are derived from the Gaelic, and are expreſſive either of the ſituation, appearance, or poſſeſſion. Thus *Grianaig*, from *Grian*, ſun, ſignifies a ſpot expoſed to the ſun, or a ſunny ſpot; *Lergachony*, the moſſy country ſide; *Barrackan*, the eminence of Brackan. But there are two farms in the pariſh, Soraba and Gemmil, whoſe names are evidently Daniſh. What theſe words ſignify, it is impoſſible to trace; but they are left behind to prove, along with the rude forts on the hills, that the brave and adventurous Danes once occupied the low as well as the high grounds of the country.

Manners.—The people are ſimple and frugal in their mode of dreſs and living. They are attentive and prudent in the management of their buſineſs; diſcreet and judicious in their converſation; hoſpitable, as far as their circumſtances will admit; and addicted to no vice in a remarkable degree. No capital crimes; no baniſhments; ſeldom a quarrel, which laſt circumſtance may be much owing to the want of public houſes. There is but one; but that one is unluckily too near the church. It is, however, a general grievance in country

country pariſhes, that theſe tabernacles of iniquity ſhould be placed too cloſe to the houſe of God.

Church and School.—The church has lately been repaired; but the manſe, which, at firſt, was built very ſuperficially, and without offices, never was repaired, and is now in a ruinous ſtate. The ſtipend is 92 bolls meal, 8 ſtone weight, and about 23 l. money, including 5 l. for communion elements. The whole, at the common converſion, not exceeding 66 l. excluſive of the allowance for the elements. To this the glebe makes little addition, as it will hardly graze two cows, if the four acres of arable, and theſe of the worſt quality, are cultivated. The incumbent muſt diſpenſe with the convenience of having a horſe, or find graſs for him; rather a hard alternative for a poor country parſon.—The ſchool ſalary is only 100 merks, and 50 s. ariſing from a mortification, which, along with perquiſites, may amount to about 20 l. *per annum*; a miſerable allowance to a man of genius for employing his time and talents in qualifying the riſing generation to fill up the vacant ſtations in ſociety with honour. What a reproach to the people of Scotland, that this moſt uſeful claſs of citizens, in their late attempt for a ſmall augmentation of ſalary, could not find, among all thoſe who received the early benefit of their inſtruction, one to ſupport their honeſt cauſe! At this rate, the ages of darkneſs will again commence; and Scotland will, ere long, be as remarkable for wealth and ignorance, as it was formerly for poverty and learning.

Wages.—A day-labourer has 1 s.; a taylor has 8 d. *per* day, and his meat; a ſhoemaker 6 d. for each pair of ſhoes, and his maintenance. Servant men have from 4 l. 10 s. to 6 l. *per annum*, and ſervant maids from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. It

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is not eaſy to calculate the earnings of a common labourer, or the expence of his family, for the year. As there are no works of any importance or extent carrying on, they cannot have regular employment. Though, therefore, a labourer has 1 s. *per* day, the amount of his earnings at the year's end may not exceed 9 l. or 10 l. Out of this he muſt pay a ſmart rent for the miſerable hut which helps to ſhelter him. He muſt ſerve his ſuperior for 12 days. His children, until they are fit for herding, are a dead weight upon him; and his wife can contribute little to the common ſtock; for ſhe muſt, in ſome places, ſpin ſo much to the landlady without food or payment; and ſhe muſt draw money from the poor huſband's pocket to purchaſe half a dozen of hens and eggs, to be given alſo to the landlady as a preſent, or rather as a further token of vaſſalage. Yet, under all theſe diſadvantages, they make ſhift to bring up a family, or to keep them alive.

Antiquities.—In this pariſh are many fortified eminences, ſuppoſed to be Daniſh forts. Theſe ſtrong holds of the early but uncivilized inhabitants of the country are rude in conſtruction, and narrow in extent. They were reared without lime or mortar of any kind. Stones of enormous weight were dragged from a diſtance, and up hill; and theſe ſtones were all placed lengthways, towards the center of the wall. The dimenſions of one of theſe towers was taken. It is of a circular form, a figure which the ſituation of the ground compelled them in general to adopt. The diameter is 27 feet, the breadth of the wall 7, and the height 12 feet, as far as can be conjectured from the ruins that lie ſcattered at the foot of it. Upon the whole, thoſe wretched retreats of barbarity and violence afford a ſtriking proof of the ſtrength and perſeverance of the inhabitants at that early period,

period, but none of their taſte or genius; and, when viewed with a philoſophic eye, they muſt excite, by contraſt, the moſt pleaſing ſenſations in the breaſt of the beholder: For, whether they were built by Danes or Celts, or both, they impreſs ſtrongly on the mind the violence and wretchedneſs of the times in which they were conſtructed; and muſt endear to the preſent race that ſecurity and happineſs which they enjoy in a period more enlightened, and under a government better regulated.

In the ſtrath of the pariſh many monuments of death appear, which, in an artleſs, but ſtriking manner, record the battles of former times. There many grey ſtones rear their heads in the heath, to mark the graves of fallen heroes. A cluſter of theſe rude obeliſks is to be ſeen quite cloſe to General Campbell's houſe of Craigniſh. This curious collection, the General, with a laudable reſpect for antiquity, has allowed to ſtand unmoleſted. Farther up the valley, towards the mountains, one of more than ordinary ſize was erected, to diſtinguiſh the grave of a warrior, who, as is ſaid, fell there in the purſuit. Some remains of cairns, or heaps of ſtones, that covered the graves where the aſhes of the dead were depoſited, are alſo to be ſeen. This place is reported by tradition, to have been the ſcene of a bloody engagement between the Danes and the natives. In this action, Olaus, ſaid to have been a ſon of the King of Denmark, was ſlain. Near the field of battle, there is a little mount or tumulus, which is dignified by the name of this hero; it is called, to this day, *Dunan Aula*, or *the Little Mount of Olaus*. There, it ſeems, he was interred; and not many years ago, as ſome workmen were employed in incloſing this ſpot, they diſcovered, after removing ſome looſe ſtones, a grave compoſed of four flags. Upon inſpecting this repoſitory, they found an urn. Imagining they had got a treaſure, they broke it; but

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to their great disappointment, they found nothing there but the ashes of Olaus.—General Campbell converted this mount into a family burying place. It is inclosed and planted. On the top of it a neat monument is built; and there the General lately deposited the remains of his only son, a promising youth of 3 or 4 years of age, whose death must have deeply wounded the paternal feelings, as he was given to his parents at an advanced period, and cut off in the blossom of life. Though it is impossible to fix the date of the above battle, it must certainly be very remote, previous, at least, to the conversion of these northren nations to the Christian faith; for the practice of burning the dead, if it was common in these countries, was discontinued upon the establishment of Christianity among them.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—This parish has no peculiar local advantage, but it has one in common with others on the west coast, its convenient situation for the fishing. To overbalance this, it labours under some disadvantages. The fuel, which is peats, is scarce, and of a bad quality. Lime-stone is not easily procured; and though it were, they could not, for the above reason, avail themselves of the advantage to any extent. Besides, by the intervention of the point Kintyre, a commercial intercourse with the low country is rendered very difficult and expensive. To meliorate their condition in all these respects; to promote, at the same time, the prosperity and happiness of the Highlands in general, and to raise its inhabitants to that degree of political importance, which their local advantages might enable them to attain, two things are necessary, an exemption from the coal duty, and a canal at Crinan, to open an expeditious and safe communication with the more improved and opulent parts of the kingdom. To accomplish either of these objects, is no doubt,

a matter of conſiderable difficulty; but from the liberal policy of this enlightened age, and from that ſpirit of patriotiſm which is already ſo forward to deviſe and execute plans of public utility, it is reaſonable to hope, that neither of them may prove impracticable, if the public attention is once engaged by their importance. To extend the coal tax, to a country circumſtanced as the Highlands is, may be conſidered as a meaſure, at once grievous and injudicious. In many places there are few or no peats; in others they are at a very inconvenient diſtance from their habitations; and in all it requires ſo tedious a proceſs to ſecure any quantity, that the people, idle as they in general are, ſeldom provide enough for the ſeaſon; and the leakineſs of the climate often deſtroys all. This was in a remarkable manner the caſe in the 1788, when the poor people were obliged, in the middle of winter, to come from many of the iſlands to the mainland, and carry heather from the tops of the mountains. Thus circumſtanced many are compelled, though at a vaſt expence, to get coal from the low country; and more would provide in the ſame way, were they able to bear the accumulated expence of freight, duty, and cuſtom-houſe fees. Indeed the heavy freight would render coal a dear article in the Highlands, independent of duty and cuſtom-houſe dues; but when theſe are ſuperadded to the extraordinary expence they muſt incur from their particular ſituation, it is a great grievance, eſpecially when an inſignificant duty, laid on at the pit, would be more productive, and leſs felt, and when many methods of commutation might be deviſed.—But it appears not leſs injudicious than grievous.—Since the ſeparation of the American colonies, the attention of the nation has been very wiſely directed towards the improvement of the natural reſources of the country. The unimproved ſtate of the Highlands has, in this view, excited a degree of public ſpirit that does honour

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to the heart and understanding of many noble and respectable individuals. Liberal subscriptions have been made; and villages are now a building, for the purpose of introducing arts, manufactures, and industry, into that depressed and neglected corner of the kingdom. But this very patriotic design will, in a great measure, be frustrated, by the scarcity of fuel, or the labour that must be bestowed upon it. The progress of improvement will be checked, for want of proper materials to burn lime; and manufactures, under this particular disadvantage, can never flourish; for it is well known, that meal, at a moderate price, and fuel easily procured, are two things necessary for their encouragement in this country. —A canal across the neck of land, between Crinan and Lochgilphead, would greatly improve the above advantage, by rendering the provision of fuel more certain, and less expensive. And without remarking the benefit that would result from it to the trade of the nation in general, in peace or war, it must appear necessary, in a particular manner, for the encouragement of the fisheries on the western coast; for though this coast is so extensive, and the fishing stations are so numerous, nothing will call forth the exertions of the people, with any degree of vigour or success, but a convenient market. This, in their present situation, they cannot have; they will, therefore, become the prey of a few greedy monopolizers. A few stores supplied with necessaries, and these necessaries charged at double value, will draw into a few hands the profits of the whole business, and the poor people will be compelled to part with the fruit of their labour for half value; besides, that many lives that are lost upon the boisterous Mull of Kintyre might be saved. But the necessity of opening this communication, and the encouragement it would give to trade in the Highlands and Isles, will appear in a strong light, by just remarking the labour and perseve-

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rance with which the inhabitants have endeavoured, in time paſt, to force trade with the low country, in their open Birlins.—Through the ſounds, between the iſlands and main land, they proceed with tolerable ſecurity to the coaſt of Kintyre; but there they are faced by the Iriſh Channel and the raging tides on the point of Kintyre: Juſtly terrified by this proſpect, they puſh into Weſt Loch Tarbert—there they unload their cargo, drag the boat and cargo acroſs the narrow neck, reſhip their goods on the eaſtern ſhore, and proceed to Clyde.

Upon the whole, it is to be hoped, that the generous ſociety, who have already made ſuch exertions to raiſe the Highlands from its preſent ſtate of obſcurity and inſignificance, will make ſome attempt to accompliſh the above important objects. It is alſo to be hoped, that every enlightened and liberal ſpirit in the nation, will co-operate in the laudable deſign. And it would be injurious to ſuppoſe, that government, who are appointed for the ſecurity and happineſs of the people, and whoſe ends are ultimately ſerved by the encouragement of arts, and improvement in every quarter of the kingdom, would refuſe to mitigate the ſalt and coal grievances, or even deny, in the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of affairs, a ſmall contribution towards opening the above communication.

NUMBER XLVI. & XLVII.

UNITED PARISHES OF CROSS AND BURNESS, in the Iſle of Sanday, and of NORTH RONALDSHAY.

(*County of Orkney.—Preſbytery of North Iſles.—Synod of Orkney.*)

Including alſo the PARISH of LADYKIRK, in the Iſle of Sanday, preſently vacant.

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM CLOUSTON, *Miniſter of Croſs, Burneſs, and North Ronaldſhay.*

Sanday and North Ronaldſhay.

THE extent of the iſle of Sanday is 12 miles long, and varies in breadth from one mile, or leſs in ſome places, to two or three miles in others. Its form is very irregular; and, by reaſon of its ſeveral extended points and indented bays, reſembles a lobſter, as Mr Murdoch M'Kenzie ſays, who is a native of this country, and ſurveyed theſe iſlands 50 years ago. The iſle of North Ronaldſhay is about two miles long, and one mile broad. Its ancient name is the ſame with the modern one, as appears from Torfeus, who calls it Rinarſeya.—The iſland of Sanday is bounded by the ſea; ſeparated from the iſle of Stronſay, on the ſouth, by a channel of a league broad; from the iſle of Eday, on the weſt, by a channel of half a league; and, on the north, from North Ronaldſhay,

Ronaldſhay, by a channel from 1 to 2½ leagues.—The iſles of Sanday and North Ronaldſhay are both of them low and flat, particularly on the eaſt coaſt; ſo that they cannot be ſeen from the ſea but at a ſhort diſtance, which occaſions their being ſo dangerous to ſhipping. When the ſpring-tides are high, the ſea ſometimes meets at one place, and covers the plain, where ſheep and cattle formerly paſtured; but this happens but rarely. In many places the ſea gains upon the land; and, in a few places, the land gains on the ſea, by throwing up banks of ſtones and ſand, which ſerve as ramparts or dykes againſt its future attacks.

Traditions.—Traditions reſpecting the incroachments of the ſea are, *1ſt*, That a ſhoal, 2 miles from the ſhore, on the north ſide of the iſle of Sanday, called *Rinnabreck*, was formerly land, and a field where they uſed to play at the foot-ball; *2dly*, That the Bay of Otterwick, (by ſome thought a corruption of Odens Wick, the Scandinavian deity), on the north ſide of the iſle of Sanday, now of extent a league long, was formerly land, and that it was covered with trees. In ſupport of this tradition, are ſhown what looks like the decayed roots of trees, along the ſhore, only to be ſeen at the loweſt ebbs. How far this tradition is to be credited, is uncertain, ſince Torfeus ſays of the Orkney iſlands, *ſylvis carent*; but, when he relates the ſtratagem by which an expelled Count of Orkney, who fled for aſſiſtance to Norway, recovered the country from the uſurper, he ſays, large piles of wood were laid in every iſland, to be ſet on fire upon the ſight of the ſhips that ſhould return with the expelled Count, thereby to communicate the intelligence more readily to him who was in poſſeſſion of the Orkneys, and who reſided in the largeſt iſland, formerly called *Pomona*, now main land. From whence, then, it may be aſked, did they get ſo much wood,

wood, if none grew in the iſlands, ſince their intercourſe then with woody countries muſt have been very limited, as theſe Counts diſputed the poſſeſſion of theſe iſlands about the 10th century? If we go as far back as the days of Oſſian, we find he ſays there were woods in theſe iſlands; for in his poem of *Carric-thura*, in which he relates Fingal's expedition to aſſiſt Cathulla King of Iniſtore, or Orkneys, he ſays, a rock bends along the coaſt, with all its echoing wood. This is perhaps only a poetical licence; but, as he is the Homer of Scotland, if we pay the ſame regard to the truth of his geographical deſcriptions, as the Greeks did to thoſe of Homer, his teſtimony is of ſome weight. Be this as it may, it is certain there are no trees in any of the Orkney iſlands at preſent.

Soil.—The ſoil is almoſt every where mixed with ſand, and, in many places, is entirely ſand; and, where this laſt is the caſe, it is not cultivated, unleſs there be plenty of ſea-ware to manure it with. 80 Horſe loads of ſea-ware have been ſometimes carried half a mile, to be laid on a piece of ſandy ground, which produced but one boll of bear in return. The black earth mixed with ſand, and clay mixed with ſand, are the beſt ſoils. As a great quantity of corn muſt be paid in kind to the ſuperior, or Lord Paramount of theſe iſlands, the farmers cannot afford to meliorate the ſoil, by fallowing or by green crops; and therefore it may be thought, that the ſoil is, in ſome degree, exhauſted; for it is agreed, that this ſea-ware does not better the ſoil beyond the preſent crop; and, by the accounts of former crops, it appears they were better; at the ſame time, it is indiſputable that farming is now better underſtood. The ſoil cannot be called bad, ſince it has produced bear and oats, in conſtant ſucceſſion, paſt the memory of man, which an Engliſh or Lothian farmer

think incredible. The ſoil in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay is alſo ſandy, but has a greater mixture of red clay.

Air.—The air is rather moiſt and raw, which, by obſtructing the perſpiration, often occaſions colds.—The moſt prevailing diſtempers are colds, colics, cutaneous eruptions, ſcorbutic complaints, and rheumatiſms, which laſt the people generally call the gout: All which probably proceed from cold and wet clothes. There are ſome inſtances of the ſcrophula, or King's evil, and 2 or 3 perſons afflicted with the white ſwelling. Fevers ſometimes prevail; and, when they ſeize one perſon in a houſe, they often affect the whole family. Relapſes are frequent, as they are not at pains to waſh the bed-clothes when they have recovered.—The ſea coaſts of the iſle of Sanday may be about 12 leagues or more; that of North Ronaldſhay 2 or 3 leagues. The ſhore is generally flat and ſandy in both iſlands, eſpecially on the eaſt coaſts.

Fiſh.—The fiſh caught are cod, ling, ſkate, holybut;—but the fiſh moſt generally caught, and the moſt uſeful, is a grey fiſh here called cuths, of the ſize of ſmall haddocks, and is the ſame with what on the ſouth coaſt is called podley, only the cuth is of a larger ſize. The inhabitants eat them; and they produce oil for houſehold uſe. No fiſh of any kind, or oil are exported to any foreign market; the people being employed in making kelp during the ſummer ſeaſon, have not time for fiſhing. Lobſters are caught, and brought to the London market by ſmacks; but none of the people of theſe two iſlands are employed in catching them, for the reaſon already mentioned. The foreſaid grey fiſh are caught from the middle of ſummer, to the beginning of ſpring. The ſeal frequents theſe ſhores, but not in great number. The otter

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is ſometimes, but rarely caught. A variety of ſea plants are thrown aſhore by ſtorms. Sponges are found.—Not many ſhells or corals. Cockles are found in two places only, and in ſtill water.—No oyſters. In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay they catch ſeals in nets; but they alledge the light-houſe lately erected there frightens them from their coaſts. The people there have been in uſe to eat the young and tender ones.

Manure.—The general manure in theſe iſlands is the ſea-weed or ware, which is driven aſhore in ſtorms, ſo that the farmer anxiouſly waits for a gale of wind from that quarter of the compaſs that will ſupply him with it, and as theſe iſlands receive it from every quarter, if the gale is ſtrong enough to break it away from the deeps of the ocean where it grows, it always ſupplies ſome place: but the tides often carry it away from the ſhore, ſo that when it comes, every other work is ſuſpended, until it be carried from the reach of the ſea, which neceſſarily occaſions the farmers keeping a greater number of ſervants and horſes than they would otherwiſe do, for if the ſandy grounds are not well manured with this they give no crop. In the Weſt India iſlands where they uſe this ſea-weed, or varech, (as it is there called), they ſuppoſe that the ſugars therewith produced, are of inferior quality to thoſe produced from other manures, ſo likewiſe, the corns raiſed by it here, are of inferior quality to thoſe raiſed by compoſt manures, at leaſt the boll weighs leſs, although the quantity produced from an acre is more than the produce of an acre done with compoſt manure.

Kelp.—It is about 70 years ſince kelp was firſt made here. The quantity at firſt was inconſiderable, and the price low. For 30 years paſt it has been the ſtaple commodity of theſe iſlands,

iſlands, and by the ſuperior ſkill in making it, the quantity is doubled. Forty years ago the price it gave at market was 40 or 50 s. *per* ton; but for 20 years paſt, it has given from 5 l. to 7 l. or even 8 l. a ton, which has greatly ſtimulated the induſtry of the people to make it. It was thought formerly that only the tang which grows on the rocks could be made into kelp; but within theſe 20 years it is found, that ſea plants of whatever kind can be made into kelp, and of equal quality, as well as more abundant quantity, than the other, provided the ſalts are not waſhed away by rain, for great rains render it uſeleſs, or, if burnt, produces but little, and bad kelp.

There is no iſland in the Orkneys of the ſame extent of ſea coaſt, that produces equal quantity with the iſle of Sanday. It generally produces one-fourth or one-fifth of the whole kelp made in all the Orkney iſlands; ſo that when 2500 tons are made in all the Orkneys, 500 or 600 tons of that is made in Sanday. Highland kelp is preferred at Liverpool; but at Newcaſtle, and on the eaſt coaſt of England, the Orkney kelp is preferred, eſpecially by the manufacturers of crown glaſs. The alkaline ſalts are what conſtitute the value of this commodity; and chemiſts ſay, thoſe contained in kelp are of the moſt impure kind, and not equal to the barilla from Spain, produced from the herb *cali*, and therefore kelp ſells for one-fifth of the price of barilla.—620 tons have been made in Sanday one ſeaſon; but the uſual or average quantity may be from 500 to 550 tons.—120 tons has been made in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay; but from 90 to 100 tons may be about the average quantity. The value of eſtates has been ſo raiſed by this commodity, that an eſtate which 70 years ago was not worth 40 l. Sterling a-year, is now worth 300 l. yearly.

Tides

Tides and Shoals.—The tide of flood ſets eaſtward, and that of ebb weſtward, with ſome variation occaſioned by the reſiſtance it meets with either from ſhoals or head-lands. Its velocity on the weſt end of Sanday is 6 miles in the hour. There is a tide ſets on the north ſide of Sanday, 14 days in one direction. The ſhoal of Rinnabreck on the north ſide of Sanday is two miles from the ſhore; and tradition ſays it was formerly united to the iſland, and that the people uſed to play at the foot ball on it. It has been long an opinion, that a light-houſe might be of ſervice on the eaſt coaſt of theſe iſlands; and the truſtees, by order from government, have at laſt erected one, two years ago, on the north-eaſt point of the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, of the height of 70 feet. By the report of ſome captains, they have already been benefited by it. Some are of opinion, it might have been of more ſervice on the Start, or eaſt point of Sanday. Time will ſhow if it diminiſhes the number of wrecks; for in time paſt, theſe iſlands have been as fatal to ſhipping, as the iſle of Providence, and others of the Bahama iſlands in the Weſt Indian Archipelago *.

Harbours.

* That a light houſe was neceſſary will beſt appear from the following liſt of ſhipping wrecked for the laſt 18 years, with the ſuppoſed value of ſhip and cargo. Some of the names are not recollected, but that is not material if we can aſcertain the value nearly.

Year

Harbours.—The two principal harbours in the iſle of Sanday are, Kettletofit on the ſouth ſide, and Otterſwick on the north ſide, both pretty ſafe, and of ſufficient depth of water, and

Year when wreck'd.	Captain's name.	Cargo.	Place from whence the cargo came.	Place to which bound.	Nation to which belonging.	Tonnage	Suppoſed value of ſhip & cargo. Sterling.
1773	Burns	Linen yarn	Bremen	Liverpool	Britain	200	L. 25,000
1773	Smith	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Britain	250	25,000
1774			Hull	Greenland	Britain	350	5000
1774	Spirling			Glaſgow	Britain	70	500
1778	De Lewes		Holland	Greenland	Holland	350	5000
1778	Potts	Hemp	Peterſburgh	Maryport	Britain	200	4000
1778	Tromp		Amſterdam	Greenland	Holland	350	5000
1779	Curwin	Hemp	Peterſburgh	Whitehaven	Britain	120	1500
1779	Caſſon	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Britain	120	1500
1782	Braſt	Sundries	Copenhagen	Santa Cruz	Denmark	450	12,000
1784	Huntly	Logs & deals	Baltic	Liverpool	Britain	800	4000
1786	Gollilei	Deals	Gottenburg.	Liverpool	Britain	120	1500
1787	Dewes	Sundries	Copenhagen	Santa Cruz	Denmark	500	8000
1787	Wetheral	Deals	Chriſtiana	Liverpool	Britain	200	1500
1788	Paterſon		London	Greenland	Britain	400	6000
1788	Clingenberg	Logs, ſtaves	Dantzick	Liverpool	Dantzick	400	4000
						4880	L. 109,500

and good anchoring ground. There are ſeveral neſſes or points, as may be ſeen by Mr Murdoch M'Kenzie's map. The moſt remarkable are Spurneſs, on the ſouth-weſt; Elſneſs, Beaneſs, and Treſsneſs, on the ſouth; the Start and Toftneſs on the eaſt, and the Holmes of Eyre on the north ſide. The two anchoring places in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay

		Tons.	*Sterling.*
Of the above Britain loſt,	-	2830	L. 75,500
Holland loſt,	-	700	10,000
Denmark loſt,	-	950	20,000
Dantzick loſt,	-	400	4000
		4880	L. 109,500

Thus it appears, that from 1773, to the preſent 1790, both incluſive, that is 18 years, there have been wrecked on theſe iſlands 2830 tons Britiſh, value 75,500 l.—700 tons Dutch, value 10,000 l.—950 tons Daniſh, value 20,000 l.—and 400 tons Dantzick property, value 4000 l.—In all nearly 5000 tons, and above 100,000 l. value. It is true, that many of theſe veſſels were got off and repaired, and the cargoes partly ſaved; but when the expence attending this is conſidered, and the check it gives to the ſpirit of commerce, and the low prices the damaged goods bring, it is affirmed by ſome, that it would be for the intereſt of the concerns if the whole was totally wrecked. If account had been kept of the wrecks in former years, it would, it is believed, have equalled the above in the number, and ſurpaſſed it in the value loſt. In 1740, the Suæcia Eaſt Indiaman of Sweden, was totally loſt on the ſhoal of Reep-dyke, on the eaſt ſide of North Ronaldſhay. Her cargo was ſuppoſed to be the moſt valuable ever ſhipped for Sweden, and, it is ſaid, coſt at Bengal 150,000 l. Sterling; in conſequence of which loſs, the affairs of the Swediſh Eaſt India Company were greatly embarraſſed. I think it was about the year 1760, the Crown Prince of Denmark, Eaſt Indiaman, outward bound, was wrecked on North Ronaldſhay, with 60 cheſts of ſilver aboard. The money was ſaved. If the cargo of the Suæcia Eaſt Indiaman was eſtimated at its value in Europe, it would appear, that there has been wrecked on theſe two iſlands, even within half a century, property to the amount of at leaſt half a million Sterling. The intereſts of commerce therefore required, that the government ſhould, as they have now done, erect a light-houſe on one of theſe iſlands.

ſhay are, Linklets Bay on the eaſt, and Stromneſs Bay on the ſouth, neither of them perfectly ſafe. Its neſſes or points are, Stromneſs and Twigneſs on the ſouth; Brideſneſs on the eaſt, and Denniſneſs on the north-eaſt. The Seal Skerry, (ſo called from its being the reſort of ſeals), lies on the north ſide.

Rocks.—The higheſt grounds may be 500 feet above the ſea. The uncultivated grounds are covered with a ſhort heath. At the extremity of the iſle of Sanday, to the weſtward, on the ſhore, for about 200 feet, is a ridge of rocks ſhelving to the ſea, which appears as if it had been once in a liquid ſtate, or calcined by fire. There is no tradition concerning it; but it is worthy of remark, that it bears the name of Heclabir, which name it probably has retained ſince the Danes poſſeſſed theſe iſlands three centuries ago. Whether it has got this name from them, on account of its appearance being ſimilar to any thing produced by the eruptions of Hecla in Iceland, the learned can beſt determine, from the etymology of the word *bir*. There are no appearances around it which indicate a volcano, unleſs the ocean has covered its effects.

There is no marble or moor-ſtone. There is free-ſtone at the weſt end of Sanday, where the coaſt bears a reſemblance to the iſle of Eday, from which it is disjoined by a narrow channel, and which is entirely founded on free-ſtone. The ſurface alſo is ſimilar, and the extended point of the one iſland, in ſome meaſure correſponds to the indented bay on the other. The ſoil of the north-eaſt end of Sanday, alſo bears a reſemblance to that of North Ronaldſhay, from which it is ſeparated. There are ſome ſlates of inferior quality. For the beſt houſes, Eaſdale ſlates are uſed.—There are no mines of any kind.

Encroach-

Encroachments.—It ſometimes happens, that in the high ſpring tides in the month of March and April, when there is a ſtorm, the ſea forces itſelf through a ſandy bay on the ſouth ſide, and ſpreads over a low plain, which is not above 3 feet above the level of the ſea, and is as ſmooth as the famous plain of Runnamede, near Staines, and much reſembles it, except that it has not the ſame riſing grounds around it. If the ſea disjoins this iſland, it muſt be here. The report already mentioned, of the largeſt bay in the iſland having been once a wood, and that the ſhoal of Rennabreck, was once a part of the iſle of Sanday, is all that tradition hands down, and aſſigns no period when it happened. If the ſea gains ſo much on St. Mark at Venice; if the Goodwin Sands were once land; if the Roman fleet uſed to anchor on the coaſt of Italy, where cultivated lands now are, we may readily believe, that the land and ſea encroach on each other, in an iſland like Sanday, ſo low on the eaſt coaſt; as it is obſerved that bays are more frequently formed on the eaſt coaſt, by reaſon of the earth's motion eaſtward, in conſequence of which the waters are protruded with more violence.

Phenomena.—There are ſeldom any remarkable phenomena in the air. When the laſt fire happened at Bergen in Norway, there was an unuſual redneſs diſcovered in the horizon, approaching to flame, about eaſt by north from this iſland; and afterwards it was found to have been preciſely at the time the fire was there. Bergen lies eaſt, or eaſt by north from this iſland. In 1766, when there were great eruptions from Hecla in Iceland, there appeared ſometimes a ſmall duſt or aſhes floating in the air, which ſome imagined might have been from it.

Animals.

Animals.—The quadrupeds are ſuch as are common; horſes, bulls, cows, ſheep, ſwine, and rabbits.—The domeſtic birds are geeſe, hens, and ducks.—The wild ſea fowl, ſoland geeſe, ſea gulls, auks, and a great variety of ducks. Swans reſort here in winter, and go northward in ſpring.—Wild land fowl are, eagles, ravens, crows, hawks, pigeons, and other common birds. A ſmall bird, rather leſs than a ſparrow, reſorts here in winter, ſuppoſed to be the ſame with what is by ſome called the Empreſs's bird in Ruſſia, and is called by the people here oat-fowls, becauſe they prey on the oats. Some who have eat both kinds ſay, this bird is equally delicate eating as the ortolan. Grey plovers are here in great numbers in winter. The lapwing comes in February; and hatches here in ſummer. Theſe iſlands are not remarkable for breeding cattle of any ſingular qualities or value.

Population.—The population, either in the charge of Croſskirk, or in that of Ladykirk, cannot be preciſely aſcertained preceding 1787. Subjoined is the population then and at preſent, as follows:

In 1755, the numbers in Croſskirk charge were rated at 1250.

In April 1787, in Croſskirk pariſh, - -	581
——— in Burneſs pariſh, - - -	388
——— in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, -	384
Total in the 3 united pariſhes of Croſskirk charge,	1353
In April 1791, in Croſskirk pariſh, - -	579
——— in Burneſs pariſh, - - -	390
——— in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, -	420
Total in the 3 united pariſhes of Croſskirk charge,	1389

By

By the above ſtatement of the population, in the 3 united pariſhes of Croſskirk charge, it appears, that the population in the two pariſhes of this charge, which lie in the iſle of Sanday, were preciſely equal, at the two above mentioned periods, the one pariſh having increaſed two, and the other decreaſed two. In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, the increaſe is 36; but from this we ought to deduct for a family of 9 perſons, brought there to the light-houſe, and then there remains 27 increaſe from the inhabitants. This increaſe is probably owing to a greater number of marriages there of late years, than is uſually at an average, and conſequently a greater number of births.

Population in Ladykirk Pariſh, now vacant.

In 1755, the numbers were - - - 750
In Auguſt 1787, by an exact enumeration, taken by the late incumbent's aſſiſtant, the number of ſouls in this pariſh were - - - - - 803

If it is wiſhed to have the population of theſe iſlands ſeparately, it only remains to ſtate them from the above thus:

April 26. 1791. The number of ſouls in Croſskirk pariſh were - - - - - - 579
April 28. 1791. The number of ſouls in Burneſs pariſh, 390
Auguſt 1787. The number of ſouls in Ladykirk pariſh, which is now vacant, were 803; and as the above two pariſhes are preciſely the ſame as they were in 1787, we may ſuppoſe they are nearly the ſame in this pariſh; ſay then in Ladykirk pariſh, which is vacant, - - - - - 803

Total number of ſouls in the iſle of Sanday, 1772

Brought

Brought over,	1772
April 1792. In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, the number of ſouls were - - - - -	420
Total number of ſouls in both iſlands,	2192

By Mr M'Kenzie's map, the iſle of Sanday contains 19 ſquare miles, and, as there are 1772 perſons in it, this is $93\frac{5}{19}$ perſons to a ſquare mile. If the proportion of the ſeveral pariſhes be wanted ſeparately, it is thus:

Croſskirk pariſh, 7 ſquare miles and 579 perſons, is $82\frac{5}{7}$ to a ſquare mile.

Burneſs pariſh, 4 ſquare miles and 390 perſons, is $92\frac{3}{4}$ to a ſquare mile.

Ladykirk pariſh, 8 ſquare miles and 803 perſons, is $100\frac{3}{8}$ to a ſquare mile.

Iſle of North Ronaldſhay, 4 ſquare miles and 420 perſons, is 105 to a ſquare mile.

By this it appears, that the iſle of North Ronaldſhay has the greateſt number of perſons to a ſquare mile, which confirms the ſuppoſition uſually made here, that this iſland is well peopled for its extent.

Subjoined is the number of Males and Females in the charge of Croſskirk at two periods:

	Males.	*Fem.*
April 1787, in Croſskirk pariſh, -	256	325
——— in Burneſs pariſh, -	170	218
——— in iſle of North Ronaldſhay,	185	199
Total in the 3 united pariſhes,	611	742

Males,

	Males.	*Fem.*
April 1791, in Croſskirk pariſh, -	264	315
——— in Burneſs pariſh, -	172	218
——— in iſle of North Ronaldſhay,	211	209
Total in the 3 united pariſhes,	647	742

Ladykirk pariſh, now vacant.

	Males.	*Fem.*
Auguſt 1787, there were in Ladykirk pariſh,	393	410

As this charge is vacant, the preciſe population at preſent cannot be aſcertained.

By the above it appears, that the proportion of males to females, in the ſeveral pariſhes, is as follows:

In Croſskirk pariſh, April 1787, as $5\frac{11}{45}$ males to $7\frac{10}{45}$ females.
In ditto, April 1791, as $5\frac{39}{45}$ males to 7 females.
In Burneſs pariſh, April 1787, as $4\frac{10}{40}$ males to $5\frac{18}{40}$ females.
In ditto, April 1791, as $4\frac{12}{40}$ males to $5\frac{18}{40}$ females.
In iſle of North Ronaldſhay, April 1787, as $4\frac{25}{40}$ males to $4\frac{30}{40}$ females.
In ditto, April 1791, as $5\frac{11}{40}$ males to $4\frac{9}{40}$ females.
The whole population of the 3 united pariſhes of this charge when taken together, were, in April 1787, as $15\frac{11}{40}$ males to $18\frac{22}{40}$ females.
Ditto, in April 1791, as $16\frac{7}{40}$ males to $18\frac{22}{40}$ females.

It muſt ſtrike the attention of the reader, that the males in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay bear a much greater proportion to the females, than in the two other pariſhes of this charge; and, in April 1791, are nearly equal. The reaſon of this may be, that the young men of that iſland have not the ſame inclination for going abroad as thoſe in the iſle of Sanday have, from a notion they entertain, that thoſe that leave the iſland

iſland are ſeldom fortunate.—The following tables contain a farther view of the population of theſe iſlands.

Liſt of the Births in the pariſh of Croſskirk for two periods of 19 years each.

Years.	*Males.*	*Fem.*	*Males more than Fem.*	*Fem. more than Males.*	*Total.*
1748,	22	17	5	0	39
1749,	22	14	8	0	36
1750,	28	16	12	0	44
1751,	14	15	0	1	29
1752,	12	15	0	3	27
1753,	16	22	0	6	38
1754,	23	19	4	0	42
1755,	19	15	4	0	34
1756,	12	20	0	8	32
1757,	20	19	1	0	39
1758,	22	17	5	0	39
1759,	23	21	2	0	44
1760,	20	13	7	0	33
1761,	24	15	9	0	39
1762,	14	13	1	0	27
1763,	20	21	0	1	41
1764,	19	17	2	0	36
1765,	16	15	1	0	31
1766,	14	14	0	0	28
	360	318	61	19	678

The above are the births for 19 years, from 1748 to 1766 incluſive. The yearly average of males is $18\frac{18}{19}$. The yearly average of females $16\frac{14}{19}$. The yearly average of both $35\frac{13}{19}$. The proportion of males to females as $7\frac{6}{8}$ to 9, ſay as 9 males to $7\frac{6}{8}$ females.

Years.	*Males.*	*Fem.*	*Males more than Fem.*	*Fem. more than Males.*	*Total.*
1771,	14	17	0	3	31
1772,	13	13	0	0	26
1773,	21	13	8	0	34
1774,	19	20	0	1	39
1775,	8	18	0	10	26
1776,	16	15	1	0	31
1777,	27	15	12	0	42
1778,	14	14	0	0	28
1779,	15	18	0	3	33
1780,	21	19	2	0	40
1781,	21	18	3	0	39
1782,	25	21	4	0	46
1783,	23	19	4	0	42
1784,	10	16	0	6	26
1785,	25	18	7	0	24
1786,	17	16	1	0	33
1787,	20	26	0	6	46
1788,	22	15	7	0	37
1789,	19	23	0	4	42
	350	334	49	33	684

In this period of 19 years, from 1771 to 1789 inclusive, the yearly average of males is $18\frac{8}{19}$. The yearly average of females $17\frac{11}{19}$. The yearly average of both 36. The proportion of males to females as 23, say 23 males to 22 females. These are the births in the united parishes of Cross, Burness, and North Ronaldshay, the population of which is 1353; so that the births are to the population as 1 to $37\frac{21}{36}$.

By the foregoing statement, it appears that the population can scarcely be supported, although there are few that emigrate;

grate; and there are no ravages from any uncommon diſorders. If, in Penſylvania, the population is doubled in 25, 20, or even 15 years, according to Dr Franklin; if, even in Martinico in 1766, according to Raynal, the births were as 1 to 30 whites, and as 1 to 25 negroes, we might wiſh to know what reaſons can be aſſigned for the inferior proportion of births in a free and commercial empire; the learned and philoſophical will ſay, that the ſouth is more favourable to population, and the means of ſubſiſtence more eaſily procured. But may we not ſuppoſe, that great inequality of property, and accumulated taxes, are unfriendly to population. Perhaps the want of fuel in theſe iſlands is a particular reaſon; as Lord Kaimes ſuppoſes, that warm lodgings are neceſſary to promote population, which the poor of theſe iſlands have not.

The number of marriages for the firſt period of 19 years, that is, from 1748 to 1766 incluſive, is 179, which is, at an average, $9\frac{8}{19}$ yearly.—The number of marriages for the ſecond period of 19, that is, from 1771 to 1789, both incluſive, is 170, which is, at an average, $8\frac{8}{19}$ yearly. It is to be remembered, that births and marriages are computed only for the charge of Croſs, Burneſs, and North Ronaldſhay, the population of which is 1353.—The number of farmers in the iſle of Sanday is 47. The number of farmers in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay is 44. It muſt ſtrike the attention of the reader, that, in ſuch a ſmall iſle as North Ronaldſhay, there ſhould be nearly an equal number of farms as in Sanday, although neither its extent or population is above a fourth part of the iſle of Sanday. The largeſt farms in this country are in the iſland of Sanday; and all North Ronaldſhay is parcelled out in ſmall farms.

Liſt

List of Baptisms and Marriages in Ladykirk parish, now a vacant.

	Baptisms.			*Marriages.*
Years.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	
1779,	12	16	28	5
1780,	20	12	32	7
1781,	17	22	39	4
1782,	15	13	28	6
1783,	15	20	35	2
1784,	8	11	19	6
1785,	16	7	23	3
1786,	24	11	35	2
1787,	15	13	28	4
1788,	12	7	19	5
1789,	15	17	32	5
1790,	15	14	29	12
	184	163	347	61

By this list it appears, that the average of baptisms in this parish, for the above 12 years, is nearly 29, or $28\frac{11}{12}$ baptisms yearly; and, that the males baptised are, to the females baptised, nearly in the proportion of 9 to 8, or as $9\frac{4}{10}$ males to $8\frac{3}{10}$ females. The average of marriages nearly 5 each year, or $5\frac{11}{12}$ yearly.

The number of Farmers in both these islands is as follows:

In Crosskirk charge.

In Crosskirk parish, in the isle of Sanday, - -	18
In Burness parish, in the isle of Sanday, - -	15
In the isle of North Ronaldshay there are only 43 farmers that keep a plough each; but there are 10 or 12 more that cultivate a little ground, say . -	43
Total number of farmers in the 3 parishes of Crosskirk charge - - - - - -	76

The

Brought over,	76
The number of farmers in Ladykirk pariſh, -	24
Total number of farmers in both charges and both iſlands, - - - - - - -	100

	Retailers.	*Weavers.*	*Taylors.*	*Shoemakers.*
In Croſskirk pariſh,	2	6	3	1
In Burneſs pariſh,	0	6	2	0
In iſle of North Ronaldſhay, - -	0	5	4	0
Total in Croſskirk charge, - -	2	17	9	1
In Ladykirk pariſh,	1	7	4	1
Total in both charges and both iſlands,	3	24	13	2

There are a few uninhabited houſes; but others have been alſo built, ſo that they are nearly the ſame as they were 4 years ago, in the pariſhes of Croſskirk and Burneſs. In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, the houſes have increaſed as well as the inhabitants.

Croſskirk charge.

Number of houſes in April 1787 in Croſskirk pariſh,	118
——————————— in Burneſs pariſh,	77
——————————— in iſle of North Ronaldſhay, - - - - - -	61
Total	256
Number of houſes in April 1791 in Croſskirk pariſh,	115
——————————— in Burneſs pariſh,	79
——————————— in iſle of North Ronaldſhay, - - - - - - -	64
Total	258

By

By this it appears there has been an increaſe of 5 houſes in Burneſs pariſh, and the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, from April 1787 to April 1791; and that there has been a decreaſe of 3 houſes in Croſskirk pariſh, which makes the increaſe on the whole only 2.

The number of houſes in Ladykirk pariſh, when laſt numbered by the laſt incumbent's aſſiſtant in Auguſt 1787, were 155. They have probably increaſed 4 or 5 ſince that time.

By this it appears, that the proportion of perſons to a houſe is little more than 5 to each houſe, or family, in all the other pariſhes except North Ronaldſhay, where the population has been increaſing; and there they are rather more than 6 to a houſe or family. If it is wiſhed to aſcertain the exact proportion in each of the pariſhes, it is as follows:

	Houſes.	*Souls.*
April 1791, in Croſskirk pariſh, -	115	579
This is $5\frac{4}{115}$ perſons to a houſe.		
April 1791, in Burneſs pariſh, -	79	390
This is $4\frac{74}{79}$ perſons to a houſe.		
April 1791, in iſle of North Ronaldſhay,	64	420
This is $6\frac{36}{64}$ perſons to a houſe.		
Total in Croſskirk charge	258	1389
Auguſt 1787, in Ladykirk pariſh, -	155	803
This is $5\frac{30}{155}$ perſons to a houſe.		
Total in both iſlands and both charges,	413	2192

Vegetable Productions and Cattle.—The two iſlands of Sanday and North Ronaldſhay, in which theſe two miniſters charges lie, produce bear, or bigg, and ſmall black oats, potatoes, cabbages, turnips, but no wheat or rye; of garden ſtuffs, onions, carrots, parſnip, and ſallad ſtuffs. There are no trees of any kind in theſe iſlands. Berry-buſhes may grow, but do not ſucceed well.—The number of horſes, horned

horned cattle, great and ſmall, ſheep, and ſwine, in theſe pariſhes, has been collected from the ſeveral tenants, and the moſt intelligent farmers, with as much preciſion and accuracy as poſſible. But, before proceeding to give the liſt of them, it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that, if any calculation ſhould be made of the value of them, as they are all of a ſmall ſize, it is to be obſerved, that to eſtimate the horſes at 3l. each, horned cattle, great and ſmall, at 1 l. or 1 l. 5 s. ſheep at 2 s. 6 d. each, is a high computation. It will appear there are a great number of horſes, which muſt be kept for the purpoſe of carrying the ſea-ware, which they do by two wooden creels, which are ſquare and ribbed, and one placed on each ſide of the horſe, the bottom of which opens, ſo as to let the ware upon the ground it is intended to manure. Oxen are uſed only for carts, and few or none for ploughing.

	Horſes.	*Horned Cattle.*	*Sheep.*	*Swine.*
In Croſskirk pariſh,	265	448	852	81
In Burneſs pariſh,	211	235	1100	36
In Ladykirk pariſh, now vacant, - - -	380	631	2259	18
Total in the iſle of Sanday,	856	1314	4211	135
In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, - -	249	256	1900	2
Total in both iſlands and both charges, -	1105	1570	6111	137

It is neceſſary to obſerve, that all the foregoing ſtocking is not the property of the tenants, at leaſt in the iſle of Sanday. On ſome of the farms, a great part of the ſtocking belongs to the proprietor of the farm, and is valued and delivered

livered to the ſucceſſive tenants, who muſt deliver, on leaving it, the like value. In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, the ſtocking entirely belongs to the tenants. The ſtocking in Sanday, belonging to the proprietor of the ground, is called *ſteelbow*.

Meaſurement and Culture.—The only map of theſe iſlands is that done by Mr Murdoch M'Kenzie, who ſurveyed them in 1746 or 1747. As his principal intention was to ſurvey the ſea-coaſts, the area, or true extent of the ſurface of theſe iſlands cannot, perhaps, be exactly aſcertained, by reaſon, too, of the very irregular figure of the iſle of Sanday. But as Mr M'Kenzie makes the length of the iſle of Sanday to be 12 miles, and its mean breadth nearly 1½ miles, this is 18 ſquare miles; and, by the moſt exact meaſurement of his map, made by the aſſiſtance of Mr John Trail of Burneſs pariſh, the iſland of Sanday contains 19 ſquare miles; and the iſle of North Ronaldſhay 4 ſquare miles. If then the iſle of Sanday contains 19 ſquare miles, and as 640 acres Engliſh meaſure make a ſquare mile, then 640×19=12,160 acres, in the iſle of Sanday. If the iſle of North Ronaldſhay contains 4 ſquare miles, then 4×640=2560.—The quantity of acres employed in raiſing corn, roots, &c. cannot be aſcertained with any degree of preciſion, as there is no ſurvey or meaſurement taken of the ſeveral farms, one or two excepted. The number of acres employed in raiſing cabbages, turnips, or potatoes, is very ſmall, when compared with what is employed in raiſing bear or bigg, and oats, which two laſt are generally in equal quantities, and they alternately ſucceed each other. In the opinion of the moſt intelligent farmers here, the arable grounds may be computed at from 11 to 22 acres to each plough in the iſland of Sanday. As the farms are ſmall, and many ploughs kept in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, it is ſuppoſed there is not more than 8 or 9 acres to a plough.

plough. If then we compute upon this average of 12 acres in Sanday, and 8 acres in North Ronaldſhay to a plough, it will be in the ſeveral pariſhes thus—

	Ploughs.	*Arable acres.*
In Croſskirk pariſh in the iſle of Sanday, - - -	41	492
In Burneſs pariſh in the iſle of Sanday,	24	288
In Ladykirk pariſh which is now vacant, - - -	50	600
Total number of ploughs and acres ſuppoſed in the iſle of Sanday,	115	1380
In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay,	43	344
Total ploughs and arable acres ſuppoſed to be in both iſlands, -	158	1724

The ploughs univerſally uſed in theſe iſlands is a ſmall ſingle-handed plough, perhaps not unlike the ancient Greek plough, and is very well ſuited to a light ſoil, and breaks the ground very well.

There are no waggons in theſe iſlands.—The number of carts is as follows:

	Carts.
In Croſskirk pariſh in the iſle of Sanday, -	14
In Burneſs pariſh in the iſle of Sanday, united to Croſskirk, - - - - -	8
In Ladykirk pariſh in the iſle of Sanday, which is vacant,	15
Total number of carts in the iſle of Sanday, in both miniſters charges, - - -	37
In the iſland of North Ronaldſhay, which is united to the charge of Croſskirk, - - - -	1
Total number of carts in both iſlands of Sanday and North Ronaldſhay, - - -	38

The arable grounds are ſown with bear and oats alternately, and in equal quantities to each, in the iſle of Sanday. In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay two-thirds of the arable grounds are ſown with bear, and one-third with oats. Each houſe has a ſmall cabbage garden, for rearing from 400 to 1500 or 2000 cabbages, but there are no cabbages in the fields. Theſe iſlands uſually raiſe more grain than is ſufficient for the inhabitants, and alſo ſupply themſelves with beef, pork, mutton, and poultry. There is uſually ſome bear or bigg, and ſome oatmeal exported from theſe iſlands, except in years of famine or great ſcarcity. After paying to Sir Thomas Dundas, as ſuperior, about 30 or 32 chalders bear, and a little oatmeal, as feu-duties, there is uſually exported from the iſle of Sanday one or two ſmall cargoes of 50 or 60 tons each, or from 400 to 800 bolls bear, beſides what is ſold in leſſer quantities by the ſmall farmers, which cannot be aſcertained, but is not conſiderable. This iſland alſo exports or ſells uſually from 300 to 500 bolls oatmeal annually. After paying 4½ or 5 chalders bear to Sir Thomas Dundas as ſuperior, and alſo to the proprietor 13 chalders or more as rent, from the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, the farmers there ſell ſome bear and meal in ſmall quantities, which cannot be aſcertained, but is not conſiderable.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages of theſe iſlands are, 1*ſt*, That as they are dry and level, the roads are never obſtructed, even by the greateſt rains. 2*dly*, The iſle of Sanday has two pretty good harbours, that of Kettletoft on the ſouth ſide, and that of Otterſwick on the north ſide. 3*dly*, As the ſhores are flat, with ſeveral indented bays, the ſea ware is lodged at different places, which is convenient to the farmers. 4*thly*, As the ſhores ſhelve by a gentle deſcent, they produce more kelp than in many other places, and from this

this circumſtance, too, the ſhores are more eaſily wrought. 5*thly*, As there are few high or craggy cliffs in theſe iſlands, the crop is not in ſuch danger in harveſt from the ſea ſpray, which is often hurtful in other parts of this country.

The diſadvantages of theſe iſlands are as follows, 1*ſt*, Although there is a great proportion of theſe iſlands in common or waſte grounds, they have, through the ſcarcity of fuel, been moſtly cut up, and conſequently produce but a very ſhort heath, on which, indeed, the cattle are let out to paſture; but it yields but a ſcanty nouriſhment, and they muſt be fed with ſtraw, until the graſs comes up, which is not uſually before June, as the fields are all open, and herding not in uſe till then. 2*dly*, There are no moſſes in theſe iſlands from which to cut peats, ſo that the inhabitants are obliged to go over to the iſland of Eday, and cut them there, which occaſions them great trouble and expence. Thoſe few who can afford it partly uſe coals from Newcaſtle, which, by reaſon of the duty are dear; and therefore they juſtly conſider the duty as a great hardſhip, ſince it ſubjects the poor inhabitants of the extremity of the empire to the ſame expence in this, as the rich inhabitants of the ſouth, and to pay to government, while thoſe of the rich counties of Lothian and Fife are exempted. 3*dly*, There are no ferrymen appointed, which is a great inconvenience in going to and from theſe, and many other iſlands in this county. 4*thly*, There are no public or regular markets at which the farmers can ſell the produce of their farms, or ſupply themſelves with what they want to buy. 5*thly*, As almoſt all the proprietors reſide elſewhere, the rents are all carried away to be ſpent out of theſe iſlands, and none of it returned either to labourers, or to the poor in acts of charity and benevolence, (except 8 l. Sterling yearly from Mr Traill, ſheriff-depute of Caithneſs) as would be the caſe if they were reſident. 6*thly*, The weights are

different

different from what is used in other parts of the kingdom, and the standard of them not exactly ascertained, so that an equalization of weights and measures would be very acceptable to this country.

Language.—The only language spoke here is the English. The names of places, it is supposed, are mostly derived from the Norwegian or Tuetonic. This may be judged of from the names of places subjoined.—*Toursness*, or *Torsness*, supposed to be a corruption of *Thorf-ness*. *Otterswick*, formerly called *Odinf-wick*, is a good harbour. *Odinf-skar*, the name of a house. *Hilly-how*, the name of a house, and town of land. *Roft*, or *Roaft*, a tide, where the sea usually runs high with ebb. *Hecla-bir*, the name of a piece of craggy-shore, of a curious appearance. The names of the extended points of land are as follows—Spurness, Elsness, Tresness, Lopness, Stromness, Lamieness, Strankquoy. The oldest sirnames of people here are Torfes, Tulloch, Swanny, Muir, Fea.

Weights, Measures, &c.—Before proceeding to give the rental of these islands, it is necessary to observe, that a great part of the rent is paid in kind; and that it is payable upon the pundlar and bismar, and that these are a standard of weights peculiar to this country, and have been used here ever since the Danes had possession of this country. To make these weights be understood by those who are only acquainted with the standard weights and measures in use in other parts of Scotland, it is necessary to state how these weights effeir, and what proportion they bear to the measures and weights of Scotland.—There are two pundlars: The one called the malt pundlar, so called because used only to weigh malt and meal. The other is the bear pundlar, so called because used to weigh bear only. The malt pundlar is as follows

lows—24 merks make 1 ſetting, equal nearly to 32 lib. Dutch.—6 ſettings make 1 meel, equal nearly to 11¼ ſtone Dutch. The bear pundlar is to the malt pundlar nearly as 2 to 3, and has the ſame names to the different portions of its weight, that is—24 merks make 1 ſetting, nearly equal to 1 ſtone 5 lib. Dutch.—6 ſettings make 1 meel, nearly equal to 7¼ or 7½ ſtone Dutch. The biſmar is a ſmaller weight; and weighs from 1 to 24 merks, which laſt is denominated a ſetting or liſpund. The malt pundlar is uſed in weighing oatmeal or malt. The bear pundlar is uſed in weighing bear or bigg only. The biſmar is uſed for weighing butter, and other things. The accounts of the rents payable in oatmeal and malt are kept in meels, ſettings, and merks, all of the denomination of the malt pundlar, as above.—The accounts of rents payable in bear or bigg are kept in chalders, meels, ſettings, and merks, all of the denomination of the bear pundlar, as above.—The accounts of rents payable in butter are kept in barrels, liſpunds, and merks, which two laſt are uſually paid by the biſmar. It is further neceſſary to obſerve, that a chalder of bear conſiſts of 36 meels on the bear pundlar; and, as the bear is of inferior quality, and uſually weighs only from 11½ to 14 ſtone Dutch the Linlithgow boll, therefore 1⅘ or 1⅚ of a meel of bear is uſually equal to a boll of meaſure, and conſequently the chalder will contain 20½ or 21 bolls of Linlithgow meaſure. But, as this may not be underſtood even after the above explanation, it may be proper, 1ſt, To ſtate the rents of theſe two iſlands in the manner in which they are paid by theſe weights; and then to convert them into Scotch meaſure by the Linlithgow boll.

State

State of Payments by Orkney Weights.

	Barrels of Oil.	*Poultry.*	*Bear Pundlar. Bear.* Chald.	meels.	fet	*Malt Pundlar Oatmeal.* Meels.	fet.	mks.	*Bismar weight. Butter.* Bar.	lisp.	mks.	*Money. Sterling.* L.	s.	d.
Crosskirk parish pays,		150	19	22	4	37	5	12	11	6	20	98	6	8
Burnefs parish pays,		120	16	3	0	15	0	0	5	5	12	26	15	0
Ladykirk parish, now vacant, pays,		239	23	18	2	65	3	0	9	3	16	262	17	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Total rent payable from the isle of Sanday,		509	59	8	0	118	2	12	27	2	0	387	19	$7\frac{1}{2}$
The isle of North Ronaldshay pays of gross rent, including rent of what is here called Kirklands and Toumaills, fay of gross rent,	1	360	19	34	0	18	0	0	9	0	0	30	0	0
Total gross rent payable from both islands,	1	869	79	6	0	136	2	12	36	2	0	417	19	$7\frac{1}{2}$

When

When theſe rents, or any part of them, are not paid in kind, they are uſually converted to money at the following prices:

	Sterling money.		
869 Poultry at 3 d. *per* piece is, -	L. 10	17	3
79 Chalders 6 meels bear or bigg, at 61. Sterling *per* chalder, is, - -	475	0	0
136 Meels 2 ſettings 12 merks oatmeal, at 10 s. *per* meel is, - - -	68	4	2
36 Barrels 2 liſpunds butter greaſe, at 21. 10 s. *per* barrel, - - -	90	12	0
1 Barrel of oil at 1 l. 10 s. *per* barrel, -	1	10	0
Total price of the above articles when not paid in kind, - - - L.	646	3	5
Add to this rent paid in money, as on the other page, - - -	417	19	7½
Total groſs rent of both theſe iſlands, converted to money, - - - L.	1064	3	0½

It is to be obſerved, that the kelp ſhores are ſet in tack with four of the principal farms in the iſle of Sanday, which four farms may make about 130 tons or more of kelp; and as the rock rent for a ton of kelp is uſually about 1 l. 5 s. Sterling, we ſhould diſcount this, in order to aſcertain the rent paid for the land only. Deduct then for 130 tons kelp at 25 s. *per* ton, ſay - - 162 10 0

Groſs rent ſuppoſed to be paid for the lands only, including feu-duties, proprietors rent, and parſonage teinds, - - L. 901 13 0

Carried

Brought over, - L.	901	13	0
If it is wiſhed to be known what the yearly value of theſe iſlands is to the proprietors, it only remains to add the value of the kelp. As there are 500 tons uſually made in the iſle of Sanday, and only 130 tons let in leaſe with the lands, it remains to ſtate, for 370 tons at 3 l. *per* ton neat ſuppoſed profit on each ton, after paying for making it, freight and charges. Say then for 370 tons made in the iſle of Sanday for proprietors at 3 l. *per* ton, - - -	1110	0	0
Say for 90 tons made in North Ronaldſhay for proprietor at ditto, - -	270	0	0
Neat value of kelp made for proprietors, and rent paid for the lands, - - L.	2281	13	0½
But to aſcertain the yearly value of theſe iſlands, we ought to replace here the 162 l. 10 s. Sterling above diſcounted from the rent for 130 tons kelp ſhores, ſuppoſed to be let in leaſe with the lands to four farmers in Sanday. Say then 162 l. 10 s. -	162	10	0
Full yearly value of theſe iſlands, both for rent and kelp, - - - L.	2444	3	0½

This, indeed, is not all clear revenue to the proprietors. There are high feu-duties paid to Sir Thomas Dundas the ſuperior; then the land-tax and miniſters ſtipends are to be deducted, the amount of all which cannot be exactly aſcertained; but, we may venture to ſay, that theſe two iſlands are not far ſhort of 2000 l. yearly value to the proprietors, while

kelp

kelp holds its price. It is proper to obſerve, that the above cannot ſtrictly ſpeaking be called the rent for the land only, ſince part of the above rent is paid on ſome farms for the ſtocking, part of which belongs to the proprietor, and is called ſteelbow. This ſtocking is appretiated to the tenant at his entry, and he muſt pay 10 *per cent.* or more for it yearly, and leave the ſame value at leaving the farm;—but for milch cows thus in ſteelbow, the tenant pays yearly one liſpund, that is equal to 32 lib. Dutch of butter. The whole ſtocking in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay belongs to the tenants, and the ſteelbow is only on ſome farms in the iſle of Sanday. The writer of this cannot aſcertain how much ought to be deducted from the rent for the ſteelbow rent, nor will he hazard a conjecture concerning it. The converſion of the foreſaid rent in grain, as it correſponds to the meaſures and weights uſed in Scotland, is as follows, viz. 79 chalders 6 meels bear or bigg of Orkney weight is at 21 bolls Linlithgow meaſure, from the Orkney chalder, equal to 1662$\frac{3}{5}$ bolls, or 103 chalders 14 bolls 2$\frac{1}{5}$ firlots Scotch meaſure; and 136 meels 2 ſettings 12 merks oatmeal, of Orkney weight, at 11$\frac{1}{4}$ ſtone Dutch to the meel, is at 8 ſtone to the boll equal to 191$\frac{1}{12}$ bolls. It is unneceſſary to convert the butter, as 7 liſpunds are allowed to the barrel, and the liſpund, as it ſtands at preſent, is 32 lib. Dutch, that is, each barrel contains 14 ſtone Dutch.

Church and Stipend.—In the year 1742, the incumbent in Ladykirk pariſh reported to the preſbytery, that his ſtipend was worth only 49 l. 6 d. Sterling.—It has been farmed out for a dozen of years at 66 l. excluſive of the glebe;—and lately, it was farmed at 70 l. excluſive of the glebe, which is valued at 2 l. yearly—ſay for both 72 l. Sterling.

The ſtipend of Croſskirk was reported to the preſbytery by the incumbent in 1742, to be worth, excluſive of the

glebes, 38 l. 12 s. 2⅔ d. It has since received some augmentation; and in 1770, was farmed for 63 l. exclusive of the glebes, which are worth 7 l.—say for both 70 l. As the price of provisions, the price of labour, servants wages, and of fuel, are now double, or thrice as much as in 1742, when these livings were estimated as above; and, as the price of grain has not risen in proportion, and as the stile of living too is increased, this is not sufficient to support a family, suitably to the rank of a clergyman, especially where fuel is so very dear.

Poor.—Ladykirk parish has of poor receiving alms, 29
Crosskirk parish has of poor receiving alms, - 14
Burness parish united to ditto, has of poor receiving alms, - - - 13
— 27

Total receiving alms in the isle of Sanday, - 56
In the isle of North Ronaldshay, which is united to Crosskirk there are, - - - 3

Total receiving alms in both islands, - - 59

Besides these there are others that need the assistance of well disposed persons.

The contributions for the relief of the poor are as follows:

Sterling money.

Crosskirk.—Sundays collections at this and Burness kirk, with dues of a pall or mortcloth, are from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. 10 s. yearly. The average, - - - L. 4 0 0

Ladykirk.—Sundays collections, with dues of a pall or mortcloth, are supposed to be yearly from 5 l. to 6 l. Say the mean average, 5 10 0

Carried over, L. 9 10 0

Brought over, -	L.	9	10 0
James Traill, Eſq; ſheriff-depute of Caithneſs is the only non-reſident proprietor who gives any thing to the poor. He gives 3 l. to the poor of Croſskirk, and 5 l. yearly to the poor of Lady-kirk, - - -		8	0 0
Total funds in money for poor in the iſle of Sanday, - - -		17	10 0
North Ronaldſhay.—The collections in this iſland are ſo trifling, that the miniſter muſt pay the precentor out of his own pocket. Say then that the collections here in this iſland are yearly,		0	5 0
Total contributions yearly in money for poor of both iſlands, - - -	L.	17	15 0

The charge of burying ſome poor, and of taking care of orphans occaſionally, muſt take off ſome of this from the poor; but even the whole of this would be a mere trifle among the above 59 poor, if the farmers were not to give them ſome aſſiſtance.

Prices about the year 1720, *&c.*—As there never were any public markets for proviſions in either of theſe iſlands, the exact price of the pound of butcher's meat cannot be aſcertained. I am aſſured, that, about the year 1720, the higheſt price given for a cow was 10 s. Sterling. As a good cow here weighs uſually about 2 cwt. if we deduct 4 s. for the hide and tallow, at the then prices, there remains 6 s. as the price of 2 cwt. beef, that is, 3 s. *per* cwt. or 6 d. *per* ſtone of 16 lib. Veal was never fed for ſale. Mutton was never ſold by the pound. At the above period, 1 s. 6 d. was the price of the beſt

beſt ſheep. As they uſually weigh from 20 to 25 pound each, if we deduct 6 d. for the ſkin and wool, the mutton would not be above a halfpenny *per* pound.—Pork. The beſt ſwine then ſold for half a crown or 3 s.; and, as they uſually weigh 60 or 70 pound, this was about a halfpenny *per* pound. Pigs not uſed to be ſold. Geeſe ſeldom ſold; but, when ſold, were 5 d. or 6 d. each. Lambs were then ſold from 4 d. to 6 d. each. Rabbits never ſold. Butter was then ſold from 4 s. to 5 s. *per* liſpund, of 32 pound Dutch, that is, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 d. *per* pound. Cheeſe was never uſually made for ſale. Bear or bigg then ſold from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. *per* meel, on the bear pundlar; and, as $1\frac{4}{6}$ or $1\frac{5}{6}$ of a meel uſually meaſures a boll, according to the quality of the grain, bear at 2 s. 6 d. *per* meel, is equal to 4 s. 2 d. or 4 s. 7 d. *per* boll. Bear at 3 s. *per* meel is equal to 5 s. $6\frac{2}{3}$ d. or 6 s. $1\frac{1}{3}$ d. Sterling *per* boll. Oats was never uſually ſold until reduced to meal. Oat-meal then ſold from 7 s. 6 d. to 10 s. *per* meel, on the malt pundlar, which is at preſent equal to $11\frac{1}{4}$ ſtone Dutch; that is, the meel oat-meal at 7 s. 6 d. *per* meel, is equal to 4 s. 8 d. *per* boll, of 8 ſtone; the meel oat-meal at 10 s. *per* meel, is equal to 7 s. $1\frac{1}{3}$ d. *per* boll.

Preſent Prices.—Beef. A good cow that weighs 2 cwt. ſells for 2 guineas. If we deduct 10 s. as value of hide and tallow, there remains 32 s. as the price of 2 cwt. beef, that is 16 s. *per* cwt. or from $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. *per* pound. Veal is not uſually fed for ſale.—Mutton. A ſheep, that weighs from 20 to 25 pound, ſells from 4 s. to 5 s. If we deduct 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. for ſkin and fleece, this is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. *per* pound. Lambs ſell from 1 s. to 2 s. each.—Pork. The beſt ſwine ſell from 6 s. to 9 s. each, and may weigh from 50 to 70 pound, that is, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. *per* pound. Pigs are not uſually ſold. Geeſe ſeldom ſold; but uſually valued at 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. each. Rabbits never uſually

ſold.

ſold. Butter, from 3 d. to 5 d. *per* pound, according to the quality. Cheeſe not uſually made for ſale. Bear or bigg, according to the plenty or ſcarcity that prevails, uſually ſells from 3 s. 4 d. to 7 s. *per* meel, on the bear pundlar. Then, according to the above converſion of $1\frac{4}{6}$ or $1\frac{5}{6}$ of a meel to the boll of Linlithgow meaſure; that is, a meel bear, at 4 s. *per* meel, is equal to 6 s. 8 d. or 7 s. 4 d. *per* boll; a meel bear, at 7 s. *per* meel, is equal to 11 s. 8 d. or 12 s. 10 d. *per* boll, according to the quality. Theſe prices will appear low, if it is not attended to, that the quality of the grain is inferior, as it weighs only from 11 to $13\frac{1}{2}$, or, at moſt, 14 ſtone *per* boll. Oat-meal ſells from 12 s. to 20 s. *per* meel, on the malt pundlar, which is $11\frac{1}{4}$ ſtone Dutch; ſo that a meel oat-meal, at 12 s. *per* meel, is equal to 8 s. $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* boll; a meel oat-meal, at 20 s. *per* meel, is equal to 14 s. $2\frac{2}{3}$ d. *per* boll.

Wages.—Labourers are ſeldom employed in huſbandry by the day. When employed, their wages are from 4 d. to 6 d. a day, with maintenance. During the kelp ſeaſon, a labourer will earn, in that buſineſs, nearly 1 s. a day, without maintenance; but they are not hired by the day, but paid according to the quantity they make. Carpenters will earn from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. *per* day. Maſons will earn from 9 d. to 1 s. 3 d. *per* day, but not maintained. Taylors are paid by the piece, but may earn from 6 d. to 1 s. *per* day, and maintained. Weavers are paid by the yard of cloth, but may earn from 6 d. to 1 s. or 1 s. 3 d. *per* day. As there are no coals, peat, wood, furze, or whins in theſe iſlands, the poor people have recourſe to the following ſubſtitutes as fuel: 1ſt, They cut from the common a kind of divot from a dead clay ſoil; 2dly, They cut the ſea weed, and dry it in the ſun, until it will burn; 3dly, They make the cow dung into balls, and expoſe it to dry until it will burn; 4thly, Thoſe who can afford

afford the time and expence, go over to the iſle of Eday, which lies half a league ſouth-weſt of Sanday, and there cut and dry ſome peats, for which privilege they pay to the proprietor 1 s. *per* ton of dry peats. All other expences added, they will coſt 5 s. a ton when brought over. Cottagers ſeldom have above one or two tons. The greater farmers have from 30 to 80 or 100 tons. It is thought that coals from Newcaſtle, freight and duty included, would be as cheap, or cheaper.—It would be impoſſible to ſtate the weekly earnings of a cottager or labourer, or their weekly expences. The annual earnings of a cottager may be ſtated as under. There is ſome little difference in the manner of paying them, which will not be above 20 s. more or leſs, than the following.

Earnings of a Cottager's Family, comprehending himſelf, his wife, and three or four, or ſometimes five children.

Sterling money.

He receives what is here called his boll, that is, for his maintenance, a meel bear *per* month, which is about 7½ ſtone Dutch, from the 11th November to the 11th June, that is, 7 months, at 4 s. *per* meel, is - - -	L.	1	8 0
He and his wife may make 2 tons kelp, which is paid for at 1 l. or 1 l. 4 s. *per* ton, ſay, at a medium, 1 l. 2 s. *per* ton, is - -		2	4 0
He has as his fee for the above 7 months, from the 11th November to the 11th June, about 2 acres arable ground, free of rent, and the farmer whom he ſerves tills it. The produce of this may be, after reſerving ſeed, in tolerable crops, about 5 or 6 bolls bear, and 4 or 4½ bolls oats. The oats will yield only about 2½ bolls meal.			

Say

		Brought over,	L.	3	12 0
Say then 5½ bolls bear, at 7 s.					
4 d. *per* boll, is - -	L.	2	0	4	
2½ Bolls oat-meal, at 9 s. *per* boll, is		1	2	6	
				3	2 10
	Total earnings for a year,		L.	6	14 10

He is allowed to keep a few ſheep, of which ſome have half a dozen, ſome a dozen, or more. From theſe he has a little wool, which his wife in winter makes into ſtockings and coarſe cloths for the family. Some few will kill for their family's uſe a ſheep or two yearly. He ſometimes can ſpare a few hours for fiſhing, which is often of great uſe to his family. His wife prepares the cow dung for fire, and gathers the ſea weed for the ſame purpoſe. He cuts divots on the common, and alſo peats in the iſle of Eday; and the cottagers aſſiſt each other in bringing them home. So that their fuel, bad and little as it is, coſts them a great deal of labour, though not much money; but it prevents them from being otherwiſe employed during the time. They can afford to brew no beer, unleſs at Chriſtmas, and then only 2 or 3 ſtone weight of malt. They uſually keep a milk cow, and pay for her grazing a liſpund, that is, 32 pound Dutch of butter, which is nearly as much as is made from the cow; ſo that they have only the butter-milk for their trouble in making the butter. They ſometimes rear a calf once in two years, or ſo. I am informed by the farmers, that the wages of ſervants in huſbandry varies ſomewhat in the different parts of theſe iſlands; and, that it conſiſts of other ſmall perquiſites beſides money; and that, putting a value on theſe, the wages of a plowman is from 1 l. 10 s. to 2 l. 2 s. yearly, beſides his maintenance. A man who can make or repair ploughs, or other inſtruments of huſbandry, will get 10 s. or

15 s.

15 s. more than this. Theſe ſervants they conſider as cheaper than their cottagers; but they are not always to be got; and they ſeldom engage for a whole year; and they uſually divide the year into 3 parts; that is, from the 11th November to the 11th June, they engage in the ſervice of the farmers; from the 11th June to the laſt of Auguſt, they burn kelp; from the laſt of Auguſt to the 11th November, they engage for the harveſt; and, by this diviſion of the year, they make more than if they were to engage for the whole year at the above wages. For their work in harveſt, they receive payment in bear. A woman receives about a boll of bear, a man about 1¼ boll; and this beſides their maintenance during the time. The wages of domeſtic ſervants alſo vary. The wages of a ſervant-maid is from 10 s. to a guinea yearly, in proportion as they are capable. Beſides this, they receive ſhoes, and other ſmall articles. As the wages vary, I can only ſtate with preciſion what I myſelf pay, which is nearly, or rather higher, than the average wages here.

Sterling money.

	L.	s.	d.
Wages to a maid-ſervant who takes care of a child, and alſo ſews white ſeam occaſionally, in money, - - - - L. 1 1 0			
Ditto, a pair of ſhoes, 3 s. 6 d. with Chriſtmas preſent and other things, 0 7 6			
Yearly wages, with perquiſites, to one ſervant,	1	8	6
Wages to a ſervant maid kept for ſpinning yarn, in money, - - - L. 0 15 0			
Ditto, a pair of ſhoes, with Chriſtmas preſent and other ſmall articles, 0 7 6			
	1	2	6
Carried over, L.	2	11	0

Brought over,	L. 2	11	0
Wages to a houſe-maid, or cook, the ſame as this laſt,	1	2	6
Total wages to three maid-ſervants, beſides maintenance,	L. 3	13	6

Antiquities.—There is a large ſtone, about 9 or 10 feet high, and 4 broad, placed upright in a plain, in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay; but no tradition is preſerved concerning it, whether erected in memory of any ſignal event, or for the purpoſe of adminiſtering juſtice, or for religious worſhip. The writer of this has ſeen 50 of the inhabitants aſſembled there on the firſt day of the year, and dancing with moon light, with no other muſic than their own ſinging.—There are ſome barrows or tumuli; but none has been opened but one, in which was found a building 9 feet in diameter, round in the outſide, and ſquare and hollow within. In the bottom was a well. In the upper part of the building was found the ſkeleton of a human body placed obliquely, or nearly upright. There were large ſtones in it, placed upright, of 6 or 7 feet long. There was found in the vault or pended roof of a quire, at Croſs pariſh church, when repaired above 30 years ago, a coffin, containing the ſkeleton of a man that ſeemed to have been of ſuperior rank, as there was a velvet cap on the head, and ſeveral pieces of ſilk and ribbon ornaments.—No remarkable battles have been fought here. Tradition reports, that the inhabitants of Stronſay, the next adjacent iſland, ſometimes, or once at leaſt, attacked them, and choſe for this purpoſe the time of divine ſervice, thereby to ſurpriſe them; and that the invaders were defeated and ſlain to one man.

Character of the Inhabitants.—The people of theſe iſlands

can undergo great labour and fatigue, although they are not remarkable for ſtrength or ſize. It is thought they have a more florid complexion than thoſe of the other Orkney iſlands, by reaſon of their not having fire in ſuch plenty, and that by this they can be eaſily diſtinguiſhed; ſo that the inhabitants of the other Orkney iſlands have the ſame obſervation with regard to them, as Tacitus makes reſpecting the northern nations, "*Sanguine pleno redundantur Septentrionales.*' The people, in ſo far as can be judged, are not remarkable for any perſonal or mental qualifications, but are not deficient in natural parts and ſagacity. There are ſome few that are indolently inclined, and plead inability for hard labour; but the generality of the people are induſtrious, or at leaſt laborious, as may be preſumed from this circumſtance, that there is no place in the county where a greater quantity of grain is raiſed, or kelp made, by an equal number of people. There is no manufacture carried on in theſe iſlands, unleſs kelp may be reckoned one. They manufacture linen and coarſe cloths for their own uſe only.

Seafaring and Fiſhing —From being accuſtomed to manage boats, the people have acquired ſome knowledge of the ſea; and, if not fond of a ſeafaring life, at leaſt have no averſion to it. Although the kelp and grain exported from theſe iſlands might keep 2 or 3 ſmall veſſels in conſtant employ, yet there is not one belonging to theſe iſlands. There are boats, from 5 to 10 tons burthen, for the pnrpoſe of carrying peats from the iſle of Eday, as alſo ſeveral ſmaller ones of a ton burthen, a little leſs or more. Theſe laſt ſerve for carrying peats, for fiſhing with, and for croſſing the ferries occaſionally, and alſo for ſhipping the kelp. The number of boats are as follows:

Boats.

	Boats of 10 *or* 12 *tons.*	*Boats of* 5 *tons.*	*Boats of* 1 *or* 1½ *tons.*
In Croſskirk pariſh, iſle of Sanday,	1	3	20
In Burneſs pariſh, iſle of Sanday, united to Croſskirk, - -	0	1	16
In Ladykirk pariſh, iſle of Sanday, now vacant, - - -	1	3	42
Total boats in the iſle of Sanday,	2	7	88
In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, united to Croſskirk, -	1	0	21
Total boats in both iſlands,	3	7	109

Oeconomy.—As in other places, ſo alſo here, ſome are more oeconomical than others. As the method of living is a good deal different from what it was formerly, and more grain expended, by reaſon of the increaſed labour in making kelp, ſome of the old people complain of the extravagance of the young, and eſpecially of their turn for finer clothes than was formerly uſed. If we except a few of the gentry and proprietors, all the people formerly came to church dreſſed in their own manufactures; but now there are few of the young who have not ſome pieces, and often the moſt of their dreſs, of foreign manufactures, which is principally aſcribed to the greater influx of money from the labour in kelp; ſo that were this ſource of wealth to be leſſened or withdrawn, there would remain a propenſity to theſe conveniencies it has introduced, without the ſame means to ſupport it. There is, however, one happy change among the poor people within theſe 30 or 40 years, which is, that there is not one fourth part of the ſpirituous liquors uſed now as formerly. The proprietors,

proprietors, ſenſible that it waſted the means, and corrupted the morals of the people, have endeavoured to check it, by ſuppreſſing the retail of it. Thus, the poorer ſort are moderate from neceſſity; thoſe of the higher rank are ſo from choice.—There has been only a part of two eſtates ſold within theſe 30 years. The laſt ſold, about 3 years ago, for 20 years purchaſe of the land rent. The kelp ſhores were alſo ſold at 50 l. Sterling, purchaſe money, *per* ton, of what the ſhores uſually yielded, that is, at 20 years purchaſe alſo, ſuppoſing the kelp to give a neat profit to the purchaſer of 50 s. *per* ton only. Landed property was formerly ſold cheaper than this, which is perhaps high enough, as the farms are, and have been, it is generally allowed, too high rented. It is ſuppoſed, that the rents of many farms could not be made effectual, if it were not for ſome advantages which the farmers have, by the price allowed them for making the kelp, which, in ſome places, is 40 s. *per* ton, or more; and the cottagers make it for 20 s. or 24 s. *per* ton; ſo that the farmer has the difference to go to his credit, in payment of the land rent. Without ſome aſſiſtance of this kind, the land rent would be nominal only, and not effectual; by reaſon that it is neceſſary to keep a great number of horſes, for the purpoſe of manuring the land with the ſea-ware; and the price of horſes is double of what it was 50 years ago, and the wages of ſervants nearly treble of what it was then, while the advance in the price of grain does not hold pace with the expence of raiſing it; and beſides, there are no fixed markets to which the farmers can bring their grain and other articles to ſale. The people, in general, are well diſpoſed to humane actions. There are few whoſe circumſtances will admit of their performing generous ones, although ſome inſtances might, too, be given. The aſſiſtant to the late incumbent in Ladykirk pariſh had bed and board at the houſe

of

of the only reſiding gentleman heritor in the iſle of Sanday for 8 years, without paying any board-wages, although this gentleman's eſtate did not lie within the bounds of that pariſh, and although he had no connection either with the incumbent or the aſſiſtant.

Humanity to the ſhip-wrecked.—It is alledged by ſome, that frequent ſcenes of diſtreſs render the feelings callous, and harden the heart againſt the ſufferings of others. If this theory ſhould be ſupported with reſpect to certain places, particular facts, or particular profeſſions and deſcriptions of men, yet I cannot think it holds with regard to the treatment of the unfortunate people who are ſhip-wrecked on theſe iſlands. In no place of this county have ſo many ſhip-wrecks happened as on the coaſts of theſe two iſlands, as will appear from the liſt inſerted in this paper, and yet in no place have they had leſs reaſon of complaint againſt the inhabitants. While the treatment of the unfortunate ſeamen wrecked on the coaſts of Cornwall, and other parts of the kingdom, and even in many places of this county, makes us lament the depravity of human nature, and rouſes our indignation, it is with pleaſure we bear teſtimony to the conduct of people among whom theſe rapacious exceſſes have not been committed. It cannot be ſuppoſed but ſome of the poor people will pilfer wood, and ſome other ſmall things, but ſeldom or never has any thing of value been taken away except in one or two inſtances. The proprietors or principal farmers on whoſe ſhores the veſſels are wrecked, uſually take charge, in aſſiſting the captain and crew, with their ſervants, cottagers, carts, and horſes, in ſaving what can be ſaved. Some of theſe farmers can raiſe and command 40 or 50 men from their grounds, with horſes and carts ſufficient to employ them; and, all theſe under the command of one man, can

do

do a great deal; and, as they are alſo in fear of his diſpleaſure, as well as of the law, they are reſtrained from rapacious plundering, if they had the inclination. Thus, although ſome little pilfering is practiſed, ſeldom any thing of value is taken away. If a veſſel is wrecked either in ſeed-time or harveſt, it muſt be a great loſs to the farmers to order all their labouring ſervants to the wrecked veſſel; and therefore they charge ſometimes pretty high for their trouble; and their accounts have been diſputed in the Vice-Admiral's court, but ſeldom modified or reduced. The proprietor of the iſle of North Ronaldſhay has been twice complimented with a ſilver vaſe, and other pieces of ſilver plate, bearing a grateful inſcription, from the Daniſh Weſt India Company, and others, for his fidelity and attention; and this beſides ready payment of his charge. The owner of a Dantzic veſſel was ſo well ſatisfied with the conduct of a farmer in the iſle of Sanday, on whoſe ſhores his veſſel was wrecked, that he authoriſed him to ſell what of the veſſel and cargo was ſaved. Theſe, with that of the captains themſelves, are the beſt teſtimony of the attention and fidelity of the people here. One of theſe captains, whoſe ſhip was wrecked in 1774, ſaid, that, if he was to be wrecked, he would wiſh it to be in the iſle of Sanday. His veſſel was run aſhore near to the houſe of the only reſiding gentleman heritor in the iſle of Sanday, and the captain and crew hoſpitably entertained at his houſe.

Means propoſed to meliorate the condition of the Poor.—As the ſcarcity of fuel is one of the moſt diſtreſſing things the poor feel, the taking off the duty on coals would tend to make their condition more comfortable, although even then they could not afford to buy a neceſſary quantity of it. 2dly, As their houſes are generally bad, this might, in ſome meaſure, be remedied, if the proprietors would give long leaſes to the

principal farmers, at a moderate rent, upon condition that their cottagers ſhould be lodged in houſes that are comfortable and warm, the expence of which might be ſettled between the proprietor and tenant, and each pay a ſhare. 3dly, It would be for the advantage of the cottager to have an acre of incloſed ground adjoining to his houſe, for graſs, cabbage, and turnip, which alſo the proprietor could make an article in the tack to the tackſman, and which the cottager might be bound to do upon receiving ſome aſſiſtance. 4thly, As it is, perhaps, one of the greateſt hardſhips attending their lot, that after they have worn out their ſtrength in hard labour, when old age arrives, they are often and generally deſtitute. As their children, if they have any, do indeed aſſiſt them; but when theſe have families of their own, it is but a ſcanty ſupport they can give them, ſince they have enough to do to find the neceſſaries of life for their own families; and, as the funds for the poor in theſe iſlands, are not ſuch as can afford them an adequate ſupply, if any plan could be deviſed, ſimilar to that entered into by the benevolent and virtuous inhabitants of the Bermudas iſlands, for giving them aſſiſtance at a certain age, provided they had been induſtrious in their younger years, would be for the honour of the man who ſhould promote ſuch a plan. If the heritors were reſiding in theſe iſlands, they would ſee the wants of the poor and the aged, and relieve them. A proprietor in Croſskirk pariſh, in the iſle of Sanday, bequeathed in 1762, for the aged cottagers that ſhould be on his eſtate, 8 acres of land, appointing the kirk-ſeſſion as truſtees upon this mortification. This gentleman and his forefathers had reſided on their eſtate in this iſland, for eight or nine generations. It is to be doubted, if fiſheries, although they were encouraged, would be of great ſervice to the poor, becauſe in ſo far as has been tried, the fiſhing is not commonly

ly good on this coaſt, and the labouring poor are, perhaps, as profitably employed in making kelp during the ſummer ſeaſon, which is the beſt for fiſhing, and their profits in the kelp manufacture are more certain; but, what has been already mentioned would greatly better their condition; and theſe, and many other things might be promoted, provided that the proprietors were reſident in theſe iſlands, and men of generous and benevolent principles.

Years 1782 *and* 1783.—The ſituation of theſe iſlands in 1782 and 1783, was truly deplorable. Farms that uſually produced 100 bolls oatmeal, did not produce 20 bolls, and the leſſer farms proportionally deficient. The quality too, was in many places as inferior, as the quantity was little. The quantity of grain then imported into theſe iſlands cannot be exactly aſcertained; but from the accounts of the deficiency of the crop, it may be inferred the imports were conſiderable, and that ſtill the ſufferings of the people were great. Some of the non-reſiding heritors furniſhed ſome ſupply to their tenants; and theſe iſlands received 20 or 30 bolls, as their ſhare of what government gave for the aſſiſtance of the north of Scotland. The beſt aſſiſtance, however, was given by Mr John Traill, a gentleman reſident in the pariſh of Burneſs, in the iſle of Sanday, who was factor on the eſtate of his brother, then in the Eaſt Indies. This gentleman imported corn, meal, and peaſe from Leith, and occaſionally ſupplied not only thoſe on his own grounds, but alſo the people on the other eſtates, without any profit, and alſo upon credit, until they ſhould be able to repay it, which many could not do for ſome years. Thus by means of theſe aſſiſtances, and the humane conduct of this gentleman, together with the aſſiſtance given by the principal farmers, to the people on their own farms, none periſhed of want, as was the

caſe

caſe in the year 1635 or 1636, when three or four thouſand people periſhed of famine in the Orkney iſlands.

There was, however, very little grain imported into the iſle of North Ronaldſhay in 1782 or 1783; and this has been uſually the caſe in that iſland, even in ſome of the worſt crops. This may be accounted for in the following manner: 1ſt, They generally preſerve ſome ſtock of grain or meal on hand of the former crop. 2dly, They do not expend ſo much grain as the ſame number of people in the iſle of Sanday, becauſe they do not, perhaps, labour ſo hard, either in agriculture, or in making kelp, and conſequently require leſs food. They have more ſheep too in proportion to the people, than are in the iſle of Sanday, and conſequently can eat more mutton, and therefore require leſs bread. 3dly, Their farms are ſmall, and their harveſt is quickly over, ſo that they have a better chance to eſcape the ſtorms and bad weather, by which the crop is often hurt in the laſt of harveſt. The grey fiſh called cuths, afforded ſome ſupply in 1782 and 1783; as alſo a cockle-ſand in the iſle of Sanday, where it was uſual to ſee from 50 to 80 people gathering cockles, in the months of April, May, and June.

Schools.—Croſskirk charge. The preſent incumbent has endeavoured to have ſchools in the two pariſhes of his charge which lie in the iſle of Sanday. About 16 years ago there was one in the pariſh of Burneſs by ſubſcription. There was another alſo by ſubſcription in the pariſh of Croſskirk, about 4 or 5 years ago, but neither of theſe continued above a couple of years. As few or none of the heritors are reſident here, the miniſter has never been able to get a parochial ſchool eſtabliſhed in theſe pariſhes; and, as the Society ſchools are not granted, where there is not firſt a parochial ſchool, one of theſe could not be obtained. There has been

no ſchool in the iſle of North Ronaldſhay for 25 or 30 years paſt; and yet almoſt all the young people can read, and upon examination, appear to be as well acquainted with the ſcriptures, and the principles of the Chriſtian religion, as they are in many places where regular ſchools are eſtabliſhed. As the farms there are all ſmall, they have a great deal of ſpare time, and the parents then teach their children to read.

Ladykirk pariſh ſchool.—The ſchool of this pariſh has been eſtabliſhed and continued for 40 or 50 years, or more. It is not a parochial ſchool, nor is the ſchoolmaſter paid from the heritors and tenants as theſe are. He is paid from a donation or mortification for this purpoſe. The intention of the donor, it is ſaid was, that he ſhould teach the children of the poor people upon one eſtate only; for the ſchool is placed on this eſtate, at the extremity of the pariſh, and he has not a houſe large enough to contain many ſcholars. He ſeldom has above 6 or 8 ſcholars, and theſe are moſtly from the eſtate from which he is paid; but he does not refuſe thoſe that chuſe to come to him from any other part of the pariſh. He ſays he receives no ſchool fees; and his yearly ſalary, as paid from the above eſtate is 9 meels bear or bigg, equal to about 5 bolls bear.—4 ſettings oatmeal, equal to about 1 boll oatmeal.—12 merks butter, equal to about 16 pounds weight.—Value about 2 l. or 2l. 5 s. Sterling.

Alehouſes and Inns.—About 15 or 20 years ago, there were a dozen or more alehouſes in the iſle of Sanday. At preſent there are in Ladykirk pariſh, - - 3
In Croſskirk pariſh, - - 2
In Burneſs pariſh, - - none.
In the iſle of North Ronaldſhay, - none.

Theſe 5 alehouſes in the iſle of Sanday retail ale only occaſionally. It is the general opinion, that this decreaſe of alehouſes

houſes contributes to the ſobriety, and conſequently to the induſtry and morals of the people. As they do not diſſipate their money this way ſo much as formerly, they lay out what they can ſpare in buying fine cloaths, which is ſure a more venial and excuſable way of expending it. There are no eſtabliſhed inns in either of theſe iſlands, although one might be neceſſary in the iſle of Sanday, for the accommodation of ſtrangers. The want of them, however, is not felt by ſtrangers, as the gentlemen and principal farmers are very hoſpitable, and people on buſineſs or boatmen, are well lodged at their houſes, and pay nothing.

NUM-

NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF YARROW.

(County of Selkirk.—Preſbytery of Selkirk.—Synod of Merſe and Teviotdale.)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT RUSSELL.

Extent.

YARROW, though inferior in extent to ſome pariſhes in the north, yet exceeds in magnitude any in the ſouth of Scotland. Its greateſt length cannot be eſtimated at leſs than 18, nor its breadth than 16 miles.

Surface and Soil.—The general appearance of the country is mountainous. On all ſides the hills erect their towering heads, and ſoon terminate the proſpect. The ſoil is various. In the haughs, in ſome places, it is deep and fertile; in others, it is light and unproductive. Upon the hills it partakes alſo of conſiderable variety. In ſome parts, the ſides are dry and arable; in others, they are ſpongy and ſuſceptible of no cultivation. The tops are generally moſſy, and fit for nothing but paſturage and fuel. The crops are frequently indifferent. Some years they ſcarce repay the labour and expence incurred in raiſing them. This is occaſioned by the general dampneſs of the atmoſphere, which produces, eſpecially in the upper parts of the pariſh, a luxuriancy of ſtraw,

but

but hinders the grain from coming to great maturity. In dry and hot ſeaſons, which occur rarely, the caſe is otherwiſe: Then the grain is ſufficiently ripened, and abundantly productive.

Climate.—The air for the moſt part is moiſt and raw. This is owing to the miſts that ſo frequently float upon the ſummits of the hills, and the vapour that is continually exhaled by the ſun from the marſhy grounds. It does not appear, however, to be unfavourable to health, as the people here attain to as great longevity as thoſe of drier climates.

Lochs and Rivers.—There are two lochs adjoining to each other, partly in this pariſh, and partly in Etterick. The one is called the Loch of the Lows, and the other St Mary's Loch. Theſe are noticed in the account of the pariſh of Etterick.—The only rivers in this pariſh are the Etterick and Yarrow. The courſe of the former has been already deſcribed, vol. 3. page 295. The latter takes its riſe from St Mary's Loch, and after an eaſterly courſe of 15 miles is abſorbed in the Etterick, a little above Selkirk. Both rivers run with great rapidity, and ſwell to a prodigious height. Small ſalmon occaſionally aſcend their ſtreams; but the fiſh with which they chiefly abound are trout of a moſt delicious flavour.

Mountains and Hills.—The hills are, in general, ſteep and towering. The moſt remarkable are thoſe called *Blackhouſe Heights*. The higheſt point of elevation, above the level of the ſea, meaſures 2370 feet. For the moſt part, the mountains exhibit a green appearance. Upon ſome few, there is a conſiderable quantity of heath. No rocks are viſible.

Sheep,

Sheep, Horſes, and Black Cattle.—The ſheep conſtitute the chief part of the animal productions of this pariſh, and are of a ſuperior quality, in point of good carcaſe and delicate taſte. The horſes and black cattle do not riſe above mediocrity. Their reſpective numbers, as nearly as can be aſcertained, are as follows; ſheep, 55,000; horſes, 149; black cattle, 545.

Wool.—The wool is of various qualities. In the lower part of the pariſh, it is of a conſiderably fine texture, and ſells at the rate of 18 s. the ſtone. In the upper part, it is of a very coarſe pile, and does not bring more than 6 s. or 7 s. For a great ſeries of years, the ſheep farmers paid no attention to this valuable article. Their chief ſtudy was to produce a good carcaſe, rather than a fine fleece. Hence the coarſe black faced kind of ſheep conſtituted their principal ſtore. Of late years, however, their ſyſtem of rearing ſheep hath undergone a conſiderable alteration, particularly in the lower diſtrict of the pariſh. Induced by the high price of fine wool, the farmers in this quarter are gradually quitting the old ſpecies, and introducing the Cheviot breed. For this purpoſe, they are at great pains every ſeaſon to procure tups of a fine quality. Nor have their laudable efforts to improve their ſtock of ſheep been unrewarded. Some, who began early their career of improvement, have trebled the price of their wool. Others again, who were later in their commencement, have doubled it. But theſe improvements are ſolely confined to the farms about and below the church. All above remain in their former unimproved ſtate. Still the old breed of ſheep are reared, whoſe wool is of the coarſeſt kind, and little adapted for manufacture. Although convinced of the great advantage reſulting from rearing the Cheviot ſpecies, yet the farmers there are afraid to try the experiment,

experiment, from an idea that their lambs could not ſuſtain the ſpring colds and ſtorms to which their farms are ſubject. That their farms are in a high elevation, and greatly expoſed to the winter ſtorms, and the ſpring blaſts, is beyond all controverſy: But, whether their fears and apprehenſions upon this head are well grounded, remains yet to be proved. No experiments have been made, and conſequently no certain concluſions can be drawn. Some, who have had a good deal of experience in rearing the fine woolled ſheep, alledge that they are not ſo delicate as many repreſent them, and that they would thrive very well in many places where a tenacious adherence to ancient maxims and cuſtoms have as yet prevented their introduction. This being the caſe, it is to be hoped that thoſe ſtoremaſters who have hitherto been prevented from rearing the Cheviot breed, by long eſtabliſhed habits or groundleſs fears, will ſoon ſurmount theſe, and concur with ſpirit and vigour in forwarding the improvement of the ſtaple commodity of the country, which tends both to promote the proſperity of the nation, and to advance the intereſt of individuals.

Birds.—The tame are geeſe, turkeys, hens, and ducks. The wild conſiſt of the partridge, moorfowl, hawk, crow, wood-pigeon, thruſh, blackbird, bullfinch, lark, linnet, and the ſparrow. The migratory may be reduced to the lapwing, cuckoo, plover, woodcock, and ſwallow. In ſevere winters, ſwans have alſo made their appearance in the lochs already mentioned.

Population.—In Dr Webſter's liſt in 1755, the numbers are rated at 1180. In this there was probably ſome miſtake. From a ſurvey of the pariſh taken this year, the inhabitants amount to 1230. Of theſe, 584 are males, and 646 are females.

males. What the ancient population was, cannot now be well aſcertained, as all the old records were burnt about 30 years ago along with the manſe. The aged people all agree in aſſerting, that it conſiderably exceeded the preſent; and their teſtimony is corroborated from the numerous remains of old houſes. Various cauſes may be aſſigned for this depopulation. One, undoubtedly, may be imputed to the monopoly of farms, which diminiſhes the number of farmers families. Another may be attributed to the averſion of the farmers to rebuild cot-houſes, which decreaſes the claſs of cottagers. A third may be aſcribed to the manufactures carried on in other parts of the country, which draw off the inhabitants from ſuch pariſhes as this, where they have not as yet found their way.

Abſtract of Births, Burials, and Marriages, for the laſt ſix years.

Years.	*Births.*	*Burials.*	*Marriages.*
1787,	28	12	12
1788,	23	10	6
1789,	19	9	9
1790,	17	10	8
1791,	20	15	8
1792,	24	21	8
	131	77	51

Longevity.—In this pariſh, ſcarcely any perſon ever attains to 100 years. There is, however, one inſtance of this remembered. A woman died here ſeveral years ago at the great age of 106. At preſent, there are ſeveral perſons bordering upon 90, but none exceed it.

Eminent

Eminent Perſons.—This pariſh has given birth to a famous military character, Colonel William Ruſſell of Aſhyſteel, whoſe heroic exploits in India reflect honour upon himſelf, and do credit to his country. One, in particular, deſerves to be recorded, as it diſplays the moſt undaunted ſpirit, and the moſt intrepid valour. When Manilla, the capital of the Phillippine Iſles, was ſtormed by the naval and military forces under the command of Admiral Corniſh and General Draper, he, at the head of a ſelect party, was the firſt man that entered the breach, and took poſſeſſion of the city. Never was courage put to a ſeverer teſt, and never was heroiſm more diſplayed. When the arduous and dangerous nature of the enterpriſe is duly conſidered, it may well be compared to the moſt celebrated martial atchievements either of ancient or modern times.

Mary Scott, "the flower of Yarrow," ſo highly celebrated in ſong, was alſo a native of this pariſh. According to tradition, ſhe was the daughter of Walter Scott, Eſquire, of Dryhope, and was reckoned the faireſt and moſt handſome woman in the foreſt. Hence ſhe had a number of ſuitors, who ſolicited the honour of a matrimonial alliance with her. In preference to all other candidates, ſhe gave her hand to Scott of Harden. From this marriage there ſprung a daughter, who was wedded to the eldeſt ſon of the Baronet of Stobbs, commonly called "Gibby with the golden garters." From them are deſcended the preſent Sir William Elliot of Stobbs and Lord Heathfield. A circumſtance relating to their marriage-contract merits a place in hiſtoric records, as it ſtrongly marks the predatory ſpirit of the times. Finding it inconvenient to take home his wife, Gibby beſought his father-in-law to lodge her for ſome time. With this requeſt he complied, upon condition that he was to receive, for her board, the plunder of the firſt harveſt moon. A moſt ſin-

gular paction, and highly characteriſtic of the licentiouſneſs and barbarity of the age in which it was made.

Farmers.—In former times, the farmers were much more numerous than at preſent. Several farms, which were occupied by 2 or 3 perſons, are now poſſeſſed by one man, which has occaſioned a great diminution of the farmers. Their preſent number amount to 40, who rent farms from 60 l. to 360 l. *per annum.*

Agriculture.—This pariſh is not remarkable for agriculture. Wheat is never attempted, as both the ſoil and climate are unfriendly to its growth. Sown graſs and flax are but rarely raiſed. Barley, oats, peaſe, potatoes, and turnips, are the chief crops produced, and theſe but in ſmall quantities. The number of acres annually employed in raiſing theſe may be eſtimated at 1000. The remainder of the pariſh conſiſts wholly of ſheep paſture. But what may be the quantity of acres it contains in whole, cannot be accurately defined, as a complete meaſurement has never taken place. Calculating upon the number of ſheep, horſes, and cattle, maintained by it, they cannot be leſs than 60,000.

Seed-time and Harveſt.—In favourable ſeaſons, the farmers begin to ſow about the middle of March, and to reap about the middle of September. Both ſeed-time and harveſt are often, however, by reaſon of the prevalency of rains and colds in this country, much later. April is ſometimes conſiderably advanced before ſowing commences, and November is frequently far gone before the crops are all cut down and lodged in the barn-yard.

Imports and Exports.—Owing to the little arable land in the

the pariſh, it is unable to ſupply itſelf with proviſions. Hence conſiderable quantities of meal of all kinds are annually imported. But, on the other hand, to counterbalance this diſadvantage under which the pariſh labours, it exports yearly an immenſe number of ſheep, a few horſes and black cattle, and a conſiderable quantity of wool and cheeſe.

Wood.—This pariſh formerly abounded with wood, inſomuch that it received the deſignation ſtill belonging to it, of *Etterick Foreſt.* But the name is now egregiouſly miſapplied, as every remnant of the old wood hath entirely diſappeared. From the great quantities of oak ſtill found in the moſſes, it ſeems to have conſtituted the principal ſpecies. The new plantations are but rare and ſmall. At Hangingſhaw, the once beautiful, but now ruinous ſeat of the Murrays of Philiphaugh, there is a conſiderable quantity of thriving wood. Small clumps of planting are alſo found upon moſt of the farms belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh, and which, in a few years, will be of great ſervice to the pariſh. At preſent, it labours under a great diſadvantage, from the ſcarcity of this neceſſary article.

Church, School, and Poor.—In former times the parochial church ſtood in a ſituation, and went by a name, very different from its preſent poſition and denomination. It was ſituated upon the ſide of St Mary's loch, and was ſtiled St Mary's kirk. As this is the very weſtern extremity of the pariſh, it was found extremely inconvenient for the generality of the pariſhioners. Conſequently, about the year 1640, it was judged neceſſary to alter the place of worſhip, and to erect the preſent church, which is about 8 miles to the eaſtward of the old one, and much more centrical for the pariſh. But although the ſituation of the church was changed, that

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of the glebe was continued and ſtill is, which conſiſts wholly of ſheep paſture, and contains at leaſt 200 acres of ground. The old burial ground alſo remains, and is ſtill employed as ſuch. In it ſeveral families, both of this and the adjacent pariſhes, inter their dead. The ſtipend, including the rent paid for the above mentioned glebe, may be valued at 120 l. Sterling. There has been no augmentation ſince the year 1731. At that time it was conſidered as a good living. The funds for augmentation are ſtill very great. The right of patronage is veſted in the Crown.—The parochial ſchool is at preſent in a very flouriſhing ſtate. Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, land-ſurveying, and mathematics, are taught after the neweſt and moſt improved methods. The ſalary is only 100 merks Scots, which is a ſum by no means adequate to the extent and land rent of the pariſh, and totally inſufficient either to ſupport the dignity of a ſchoolmaſter, or to reward him for his uſeful labours. The ſchool-houſe is in excellent repair, and accommodated for lodging ſeveral boarders. Laſt winter, the ſchoolmaſter had 8 ſcholars boarded with him. Beſides the parochial ſchool, there is another ſituated upon the Etterick river, where the branches of education already mentioned are alſo taught. For this ſchool there is no ſalary allotted. The ſchoolmaſter has nothing to depend upon for his ſubſiſtence, but the emoluments ariſing from the ſchool fees, and a guinea gratuitouſly given annually by that benevolent nobleman the Duke of Buccleugh. Were the other heritors to imitate his laudable example, and thus countenance a ſeminary of learning highly neceſſary for the place, it would ſurely be highly for their honour. As they are noblemen and gentlemen of the moſt reſpectable characters, and generous diſpoſitions, it is to be hoped, this will be brought about upon a proper application to them. The ſchool-houſe is in good order, being built lately, partly by ſubſcription,

ſubſcription, and partly by the ſurplus of poor's rates.—There are 57 perſons upon the poor's roll at this time. None of them are permitted to ſtroll and moleſt other pariſhes. They are liberally ſupported at their own homes. Every perſon's caſe is duly conſidered twice in the year, and a ſum is allotted to them ſuitable to their exigency. Beſides the weekly collections on Sunday, the funds appropriated for their maintenance are the aſſeſſments upon the heritors and tenants. Since their firſt inſtitution theſe have increaſed conſiderably. At their commencement they were moderate, owing to the ſmall number of penſioners. Now theſe are greatly multiplied, and the poor's rates are egregiouſly ſwelled. Laſt year they amounted to 120 l. Sterling. Though eſtabliſhed upon generous principles, and deſtined to relieve virtuous poverty and diſtreſs, yet their benevolent deſign is in ſome meaſure counteracted, by the temptation they hold out to ſloth and diſſipation. There is reaſon to ſuſpect, that many taking advantage of this proviſion for indigence and trouble, ſquander away what they earn, and are at no pains to ſecure for themſelves a ſubſiſtence, either when laid upon a bed of ſickneſs, or ſubjected to the infirmities of old age. But notwithſtanding its abuſe in ſome inſtances, it is ſurely a noble inſtitution, and reflects the higheſt honour upon this country, which is attentive to every claſs of citizens, and deſirous that every individual ſhould enjoy, if not the comforts, at leaſt the neceſſaries of life.

Fuel.—The fuel generally made uſe of is peat. In the upper part of the pariſh it is of an excellent quality, and found in great abundance;—in the lower it is both very ſcarce and bad. Upon which account the farmers in this diſtrict commonly make uſe of ſeveral cart load of coal, which they drive

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all the way from Lothian. But theſe as they coſt 3 d. the ſtone by the time they are laid down here, are far beyond the purchaſe of the poor people. Their ſole dependence is upon the peat and the heather.

Land Rent.—On account of the riſing prices of ſheep and wool, the rent of the pariſh has increaſed very much of late years. At preſent it amounts to 7000 l. Sterling. The valued rent is 31,377 l. 9 s. 8 d. Scotch. An immenſe valuation for a ſingle pariſh.

Wages.—The wages uſually paid to ſervants employed in huſbandry are from 6 to 7 l. Sterling to males, and from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. to females. Day-labourers receive 8 d. together with victuals, without them 14 d. Taylors, ſhoemakers, weavers, maſons, and wrights, earn from 15 to 20 d. *per* day. Wages of all kinds have rapidly increaſed of late years, and are ſtill upon the riſing hand.

Antiquities.—Throughout all the pariſh, there are numerous remains of old caſtles, formerly the ſeats of the feudal barons. Their conſtruction and ſituation highly mark the ruſticity and ferocity of the times in which they were built. They are for the moſt part conſtructed upon the ſides of the hills, in the rudeſt and ſtrongeſt manner; and have been evidently deſigned to protect the poſſeſſors of them from the aſſualts of neighbouring chieftains and Engliſh invaders, with whom they lived in a ſtate of perpetual warfare.

Diſadvantages.—This pariſh labours under ſeveral diſadvantages, one of which is the diſtance of coal and lime, together with free-ſtone; the former of which are diſtant 30, the

the latter 18 miles. Another originates from the diſtance of market towns. Selkirk is the neareſt, and even it is diſtant 8 miles from the manſe. The bad ſtate of the roads conſtitutes a third. It is only of late years that any attention hath been paid to them. Now a communication for carriages is opened up the Yarrow river, from Selkirk to Moffat and the weſt country. Another road is carried up the Etterick river, as far as Etterick church; but both theſe, eſpecially that of Etterick, require great amendments. The croſs roads are all in a ſtate of nature, and in ſome places are exceſſively deep. The ſnow alſo at times is productive of great inconveniency and hardſhip to the ſtoremaſters in the upper diſtrict of the pariſh. Frequently they have been obliged to fly to the low countries for proviſion for their flocks, and after all their toil and expence many of them have been cut off. In the years 1772 and 1774, they ſuſtained immenſe loſſes. Some whole farms were almoſt deſolated by the mortality among the ſheep, occaſioned by the ſeverity of the winters. The ſcarcity of bridges is likewiſe a great drawback upon this pariſh. Frequently is the traveller, by the ſwelling of the rivers, either obſtructed altogether upon his route, or obliged to go many miles about, in order to purſue his journey.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—No particular manufactures are carried on in the pariſh. Houſehold expences are greatly increaſed of late years. Landed property ſeldom changes. The beſt arable land is not worth more than a guinea *per* acre. Very little of the pariſh is incloſed. The dreſs of the inhabitants is much altered from what it was 20 or 30 years ago. A ſpirit for feuing at preſent prevails among the people. One whole farm belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh

was

was this year feued out into ſmall parcels, upon which the feuers are building very neat houſes.

The people are in general ſober, devout, and induſtrious. None have been baniſhed the country in the memory of any perſon now living. They enjoy in a conſiderable degree the comforts of life, and appear to be contented with their circumſtances and ſituation.

NUM.

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF CARSEFAIRN.

(*Stewartry of Galloway.—Preſbytery of Kirkcudbright. Synod of Galloway.*)

By the Reverend Mr SAMUEL SMITH.

Name.

CARSEFAIRN or Carſefern, compounded of *Carſe* and *fern*, moſt probably derives its name from the ſituation of the church, which is upon an extenſive plain on the banks of Deugh, and which at the time of its erection had been covered with *fern*.

Soil, Produce, &c.—Excepting the plain on which the church is ſituated, and a few more very ſmall ſpots on the banks of the rivers, the country is all hilly. The high hills are all green—the lower ones generally covered with heath, and interſperſed with large flats of moſs. The ſoil for paſturage is chiefly of two kinds: The ſpongy and wet, which yields the moſt luxuriant herbage; and the dry, which is by far the moſt nutritive paſture. It is reckoned, however, an advantage for a farm to have both kinds, and moſt farms have this advantage. There are perhaps 1000 acres of arable ground in the pariſh, though ſeldom above a tenth part in tillage. Double that quantity of meadow grounds; a good

deal of which is cut only once in two years. About 150 years ago wood had abounded; now any that remains ſcarcely deſerves to be mentioned. Iron ore might be found in abundance, and formerly iron mines were wrought; but diſcontinued as ſoon as the wood for charcoal was exhauſted. Were the working of iron to be again reſumed, it is probable from the expence of coal, and the great diſtance to any ſea-port, it would yield but little profit. Almoſt all the ſprings are chalybeates, ſome of which are excellent; but as they lie remote from any habitation, it is probable they never will be frequented.

Air, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—Much more rain falls here than in the lower parts of the county; and as the ſituation is high, and the grounds in moſt places wet, the air muſt be comparatively moiſt, yet it is extremely ſalubrious. Epidemics are rarely known. An intermittent never was a native of the pariſh. They are indeed occaſionally imported by the cattle drivers, when they return from the fens of England; and in a variety of inſtances it has been obſerved, that the diſeaſe did not make its appearance for ſeveral weeks after the infection had been received. Other fevers here are of the ſlow nervous kind. They appear only among ſome of the lower claſſes, and are evidently owing to cold damp houſes, want of cleanlineſs, and of proper food. Scurvies are little known, though moſt of the inhabitants live all the year round on ſalted proviſions, which they uſe in great abundance. The pernicious conſequences of this mode of living are obviated by the plentiful uſe of potatoes, and other vegetables. The rheumatiſm, it might be expected, would be a prevalent diſorder in a cold and damp country, particularly when it is conſidered, that the ſhepherds muſt often after being greatly overheated in climbing the ſteep mountains,

tains, be expoſed to the piercing air on their ſummits, and that they often continue wet for whole days and nights. That it is not ſo muſt be attributed in a good meaſure to the diſcreet uſe of warm woollen clothes, particularly the *plaid*, with which every inhabitant of the pariſh male and female is provided *.

State

* It may not, perhaps, be improper, to take notice of one other diſeaſe which formerly prevailed in this, and ſtill prevails in many other places of the ſouth of Scotland, viz. the *yaws*. This diſeaſe is always caught by infection. The virus which ſpreads the contagion, is evidently of the venereal kind; but the mode of receiving it is different in this and in the lues venerea. The infection is almoſt invariably communicated by the ſaliva of the perſon diſeaſed. The firſt ſymptoms are uſually a pricking pain, with a ſlight inflammation, and ſometimes a ſmall ulcer in one or both ſides of the throat. The inflammation often extends over the fauces and uvula. The amygdalae, and ſometimes parotids, ſwell on one or both ſides. In this ſtage of the diſeaſe, it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh it from a ſlight cynanche, or common ſore throat. Afterwards the pain and inflammation, inſtead of being removed by the means which uſually prove effectual in the cure of the cynanche, gradually increaſe for ſeveral weeks or months. By this time the whole of the fluids are tainted, and the diſeaſe further makes its appearance on the ſcrotum, penis, and ſides of the thighs, or perhaps more frequently in tumours in the anus, which ſoon break, and become painful ulcers. Red or purple ſpots ſometimes appear on the breaſt, or other places of the ſkin, and the whole habit of body is diſordered. Though the diſeaſe uſually begins in the fauces, yet the palate is ſeldom much injured, or the cartilage of the noſe affected, as in caſe of lues when of long ſtanding. The writer has ſeen no caſe where the bones either of the legs or arms were affected.

The mode of cure is exactly the ſame as in a confirmed lues, by the uſe of mercury, to ſuch a degree as gently to affect the mouth, and for ſuch a length of time as may remove every ſymptom, which will ſeldom be leſs than ſix weeks or two months, and often conſiderably more. An effectual mode of preventing it is neither to ſup from the ſame diſh, drink from the ſame cup, or ſmoke from the ſame pipe, which hath been uſed

State of Properties.—One half of the pariſh belongs to Mr Macadam of Craigengillen. The other half is divided among 14 different heritors, only two of whom are reſidenters. The valuation of the pariſh is 5760 l. Scots. The real rent 2800 l. Sterling. The farmers at an average pay upwards of 200 l. yearly rent.

Number of Sheep, -	30,000
——— Black Cattle, -	1203
——— Horſes, - -	83
——— Ploughs, - -	20
——— Carts, - -	19
——— Goats, - -	40

Population. In 1755, the numbers were 609.—At preſent 461.—Decreaſe 148.——Under 10 years 112—From 10 to 50, 278—Above 50, 70. No accurate pariſh regiſter has been ever kept; but it is evident, from remains of old houſes in every farm, that the inhabitants had at ſome former period been nearly double of what they are at preſent. They have increaſed a little of late years, and appear ſtill to be increaſing, from the building of a village which contains 60 inhabitants.

Paſturage.—Though agriculture is yet in a rude ſtate, this is by no means the caſe with reſpect to the management of ſheep and black cattle. In this, perhaps, the farmers in this pariſh are inferior to none in any part of Galloway. Few of them have leſs than 2000 ſheep; and they are attentive to every method of improving them, and guarding them againſt the

uſed by a perſon infected. By the uſe of theſe precautions, a very troubleſome diſorder is removed from this pariſh, and might ſoon be extirpated every where.

the various accidents to which they are liable. The principal methods of improvement which have been adopted of late years are, ſtocking lightly; taking low farms for winter, or reſerving winter graſs in the loweſt parts of the ſame farm; ſelecting the beſt rams, which they often bring from diſtant places where they can find them, of better ſize and ſhape, and equally hardy; ſelling off the weak ewes in the latter end of the ſeaſon, and the ſmall lambs either at that time or about Lammas. Where the farm is large, dividing the ſheep into different flocks, which are kept ſeparate all the year round, and changing the rams from one flock to another; ſending the rams to richer paſture in the winter and ſpring; ſmearing much lighter than was formerly the practice. It is never found advantageous to give up *ſmearing* altogether, though it has often been tried. The ſheep always became worſe, and the wool leſs in quantity, and inferior in quality, unleſs the ſeaſon was remarkably mild.

The farmers here have certainly given leſs attention to the improvement of wool than it merits. The only ſheep uſed is the common black and grey faced, and no fair trials have been made, whether any other ſpecies with finer wool would thrive with them, though they are invariably of opinion that they would not. Hence the wool is in general coarſe. It ſells theſe two years paſt from 6 to 8 s. *per* ſtone, or 26 lib. averdupois. The mutton is excellent, and improves in quality till the wedder is 6 years old. They are uſually ſold at three. A wedder of this age weighs 10 or 11 lib. averdupois *per* leg, has 6 or 7 lib. ditto of fat, and ſells at 11 s. Part are ſent to the markets in the north of England in ſummer, but the greateſt quantity to Edinburgh in the end of harveſt.—The two moſt fatal diſeaſes of ſheep are the rot and ſickneſs. Theſe two dreadful maladies uſed often formerly

merly to ſweep away the half of a ſtock, but ſeldom now make very great havock. The means to prevent the former is to ſtock light, and after bad ſeaſons to ſell off every one that is ſuſpected. The beſt method of preventing the latter, is to take the young ſheep which are moſt liable to it either to a different farm, or to another part of the ſame farm, where the quality of the ſoil is different. The cure of either is never attempted, though there can be no doubt it would often ſucceed, if the diſeaſed ſheep were obſerved on the firſt attack. The proper cure of the rot would be ſalt marſhes, or houſe feeding. The ſickneſs is an inflammation of the inteſtines, and ought certainly to be treated by bleeding, injections, and warm fermentation.

In one or two farms a diſeaſe alſo prevails termed the *vanquiſh*. It ariſes from feeding on dry barren moſs, void of all nouriſhment, to which the creatures are ſo attached, that they will never leave it till they die of emaciation. In this diſeaſe the horns uſually become red. This diſeaſe almoſt conſtantly proves fatal, unleſs the ſheep are removed to the low grounds, and put on better paſture, which always operates a cure.

Another diſeaſe very common on ſome farms is termed the *gripping*. This is evidently a paraletic or nervous affection, where one or more of the limbs, or ſometimes the whole body is affected. It might probably be cured by laudanum. The cold bath is often uſed with advantage.

The ſturdy or hydrocephalus is alſo a well known diſeaſe among the ſheep. It admits of no cure but cutting and taking out the water, which ſometimes proves ſucceſsful, even when performed by the coarſe hand of the ſhepherd, with no other inſtrument than a common knife.

The

The farmers in this pariſh are alſo well ſkilled in the management of black cattle, and breed great numbers of them. They never attempt to raiſe them of a large ſize; but are very attentive to the ſhapes both of bull and cow, and accordingly rear them very handſome. It is a well known fact, that in muir farms where the paſture is coarſe, a ſmall cow will not only give as much milk, but even breed as good a calf as one much larger. By a little more attention to the breed of horſes, which they now begin to pay, they might produce ſome of the hardieſt and moſt ſerviceable for riding or light carriage of any in Scotland.

Manners, &c.—The inhabitants of this pariſh have not been careleſs of their own improvement, and have made no inconſiderable progreſs in civilization. Placed all in eaſy circumſtances; enjoying not only the neceſſaries, but many of the conveniencies, and ſome of the luxuries of life; favoured with many intervals of leiſure without enticements to diſſipation, they have been careful to cultivate their minds; they pleaſe themſelves with rural or innocent ſocial amuſements, of which they are extremely fond; and, upon the whole, appear to be in that middle ſtate betwixt opulence and want, barbarity and refinement, which is perhaps of all others moſt favourable to happineſs. Pride, envy, and ambition are, perhaps, the moſt prevalent vices: Sobriety, induſtry, and hoſpitallity the moſt diſtinguiſhing virtues. The writer of this has been ſurpriſed to find oftentimes in their little libraries, ſome of the beſt authors in the Engliſh language.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church and manſe are ſmall, but in tolerable repair. The ſtipend 500 l. Scotch, and 3 chalders of victual, two-parts meal, and one-third bear, with

with a legal glebe and grass; but in so high and exposed a country not very valuable. The emoluments of the school are 16 l. a-year at an average.

The poor are few in number, and well provided for. The funds of late years have considerably increased. Seceders of all descriptions are almost entirely extirpated. All the inhabitants are punctual in attending on public worship, yet by no means either superstitious or enthusiastic.

NUM-

NUMBER L.

PARISH OF BOWER.

(County of Caithneſs.—Preſbytery of Caithneſs.—Synod of Sutherland and Caithneſs.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM SMITH.

Name and Appearance.

THE name of *Bower*, as of moſt places in this country, ſeems to be derived from the Daniſh language, and is ſaid to denote a *valley*, (or what in Scotch is called a *carſe*). The pariſh is 7 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. The cultivated land is, in general, a long extended vale from weſt to eaſt, formed by a gently riſing ground on the north and ſouth, but interſected about the centre by a ridge of green hill, running from north to ſouth throughout the whole breadth, which afterwards being directed eaſtward, is the boundary between Bower and Watten.

This pariſh is, in general, flat and low lying; and, like the reſt of the ſhire of Caithneſs, can hardly be ſaid to have hills in it. On the above mentioned ridge of riſing ground, which almoſt equally divides the pariſh, betwixt Bower Tower and Brabſter, to the weſt of the kirk, is a large ſtone, about 8 feet above ground, called *Stone Lude* or *Lutt*, perhaps from a great man Liotus, mentioned by Torfaeus, who is ſaid to have reſided in this neighbourhood; or from *Loda*, and may have been a place of Pagan worſhip. Beſides ſeveral tumuli,

or heaps of ſtones, ſuch as the Croſs of Bower, the Cairn of Heather Cow, the Cairn of Uſhally, and many others, ſituated on every eminence in the pariſh, and in the country in general. Some make *Ludgate* to denote *Lord's gate*, and ſo called as it leads to St Paul's at London.

The Cairn of Heather Cow is ſurrounded by 6 or 7 circles, deſcribed at different diſtances around by large ſtones ſet on edge, and ſeems to be ſome monument of Druidical antiquity. It is ſituated about an Engliſh mile ſouth from the kirk, from which the ground riſes by a gradual aſcent, till it terminates in a round top. On this eminence, which is the higheſt ground in the pariſh, there is a circular building of ſtones, about 9 feet in diameter, and 4 or 5 feet high, aſcending by 2 or 3 ſteps, like a ſtair, on one ſide. From it there is a very extenſive proſpect of the country, and part of every pariſh in it. In a clear day, we may here have a view almoſt of the general outlines of the country: Of the hills which ſeparate Sutherland and Caithneſs; of the Strathnaver hills; of part of the North Sea and Pentland Frith; ſome of the Orkney Iſles; and the entrance into the Murray Frith at Rieſe Bay. From this hill and its environs moſt of the fuel of the pariſh is taken; and of it there is great abundance.

Soil and Produce.—Moſt of the commons in this pariſh are covered with green, and may be very eaſily converted into good arable land. But, by the manner of cultivating them hitherto in patches, and by building ſmall cottages on them, there is no very valuable acquiſition of arable land obtained, and the paſture ground is much diminiſhed.—The arable land conſiſts of various kinds of ſoil, but principally ſtrong clay and loam, and might be much improved by draining the low and marſhy grounds.—The grains chiefly cultivated here are bear and oats, but moſt of the latter; and it is believed, that

a greater quantity of oat-meal is brought to the market from this than almoſt any pariſh in Caithneſs. The quantity of victual ſold annually by the proprietors alone, out of their rents and farms, will be upwards of 2000 bolls.—The pariſh is divided at preſent among ſix proprietors, two of whom reſide in it.

Rent and Services.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 2761 l. 16 s. Scotch; the real rent about 1500 l. Sterling; and would, no doubt, be much advanced, if the farmers had ſufficient encouragement to improve and incloſe their poſſeſſions, by getting leaſes, and by being exempted from the ſervices and cuſtoms which are ſtill more or leſs exacted almoſt every where in this pariſh, according to ancient practice; though, in many places, ſome of them are converted into money, and not unlimited as formerly. Benjamin Williamſon, younger of Banneſkirk, ſeems to have done moſt in aboliſhing the ſervitude on part of his eſtate in this pariſh, and has further encouraged ſome of his tenants, by giving leaſes of 19 years. The converſion of ſervices has hitherto been gradual and progreſſive; and perhaps the moſt adviſeable plan, for the preſent, is to exact victual rather than money for them, as the poor people are frequently at a loſs in turning their commodities into money to the beſt advantage, and are bad oeconomiſts of it when they have got it. In the firſt ſtage of ſervitude it was unlimited, the people being obliged, upon any occaſion, and at any time, when called upon, to come out to their maſter's work; and the ſervice performed was executed in the moſt ſlovenly and ſuperficial manner poſſible. Beſides the unprofitableneſs of this ſcheme, it was moſt pernicious in a moral view, as it laid a foundation for every indolent and diſhoneſt habit. In the next ſtage, a partial limitation and reſtriction took place; and

and a certain piece of work was agreed upon; which being known, was executed more ſpeedily, and was all in favour of the active and induſtrious, as they had more the command of their time, and might apply themſelves with more ſucceſs to the management of their own affairs.

Former and Preſent State compared.—A proprietor let a certain ſmall extent of land to his tenants, for which he received the greater part of his rent in victual, and a very ſmall acknowledgment in money, (ſpecie being then very rare in the country), in name of groſs rent. The tenants of this deſcription were bound to pay the following ſervices: Tilling, dunging, ſowing, and harrowing, a part of an extenſive farm or mains, in the proprietor's natural poſſeſſion. They provided a certain quantity of peats for his fuel, carried feal and divot, thatched a part of his houſes, and furniſhed ſimmons for that purpoſe, as well as for ſecuring his corns in the barnyard: They weeded the land, led a certain quantity of midden feal from the common for manure to his farm: They mowed, made, and ingathered his hay, the ſpontaneous produce of the meadow and marſhy grounds: They cut down, ingathered, threſhed out in part, manufactured, and carried to market, the growth of this farm. Beſides theſe ſervices, the tenants paid in kind the following articles, under the name of cuſtoms, viz. ſtraw-cazzies, which were uſed as ſacks for carrying victual; ſide ropes, made of hair, for drawing the plough-halters; floſs or reeds, uſed for theſe and ſimilar purpoſes; teathers made of heather; ſtraw for thatch, &c. Beſides theſe, the tenants wintered a beaſt or more each, according to the extent of his poſſeſſion, paid vicarage, or ſmall teind, meat lamb, wedder, or more, hawk, hen, and eggs, out of each houſe, with more poultry, according to the extent of their farms; meat and teind geeſe, meat ſwine,

and

and mill gault. Beſides theſe fleſh duties, graſs farms in the Highlands paid veal, kid, butter, and cheeſe, &c. And tenants on the ſea coaſt paid teind and quatel fiſh, and oil, out of each boat belonging to them, and carried ſea-ware for manuring the proprietor's farm. Amongſt other articles of rent, the parſonage, or great teind, being the tenth ſheaf of the tenant's produce, was alſo till lately drawn in harveſt by the proprietor in ſome few places in the country. They alſo, in general, ſpun a certain quantity of lint for the landlady, who likewiſe had from them a certain portion of wool annually.—All theſe different payments obtained generally in the county of Caithneſs 30 or 40 years ago. Of late, they have been converted, in many places, by ſome proprietors in the country, into money or victual, or not exacted. The abſence of proprietors from their eſtates, which, in that caſe, were let to great tackſmen, or to factors, in ſome inſtances, has promoted the converſion; while others, from entertaining different views of their intereſt, whether preſent or abſent, have continued to exact the above payments, leſs or more, according to uſe and wont. In the country, in general, within the laſt ten years, a different and more approved ſyſtem of farming has begun to be practiſed in many places; and men, being convinced of the ſuperior advantages of it, it will, no doubt, in a few years univerſally prevail; in conſequence of which, the wages of ſervants, and the price of proviſions, have conſiderably riſen in value, and will continue to do ſo. At the period above mentioned, the wages of a man-ſervant employed in farming were about 12 l. Scotch, or 1 l. Sterling, *per annum*, with $5\frac{1}{2}$ bolls victual, half barley-meal, and half oat-meal; of a woman or boy, half of the above. At preſent, the man-ſervant has about 3 l. Sterling, with 6 or 7 bolls of victual; the others half of that. A day-labourer's wages may be eſtimated about 6 d. or 8 d. without meat; but

but there is ſeldom work performed in this way.—The price of beef, mutton, and pork, is at preſent, at an average, about 2 d. *per* lib.; of a gooſe, 1 s. 2 d.; poultry, 4 d. each; which is double, in ſome inſtances treble, their value, at the period above mentioned. Butter, of 24 lib. to the ſtone, 10 s.; and cheeſe, 4 s. *per* ſtone.—At the period above mentioned, moſt of the wearing apparel uſed by the people in the country conſiſted of coarſe woollen ſtuffs of their own manufacture, on which they beſtowed no very expenſive dye. This cloathing, though leſs elegant and gaudy than the preſent faſhion, ſufficiently anſwered the purpoſes of decency and warmth, and was accounted fully adequate to the ſituation and circumſtances of the inhabitants. Of late years, by the extenſive importation of cloths, of various kinds, from the ſouthern parts of Scotland, and from England, the home manufactures of woollen ſtuffs, at leaſt, have been much diſcouraged, and almoſt laid aſide.—The cultivation of flax, and the weaving of linen cloths, however, ſeem to be daily more and more increaſing in the country.

Condition and Manners.—The inhabitants of the country in general, eſpecially of the lower ranks, live on a very ſpare and ſcanty diet, and perhaps much leſs comfortably than formerly, the profits of their labour being principally expended in purchaſing fineries, of which they are exceſſively fond. By the number and vigilance of revenue officers, and by the high duties lately impoſed, the manufacturing of malt, and brewing of beer, is much diſcouraged and prevented; and, as to ſpirituous liquors, the encouragement given by the legiſlature to the erecting of a number of ſmall diſtilleries, ſeems to be very unfavourable both to the health and morals of the lieges, eſpecially on account of the conſumption in public

public meetings, or at markets and country fairs, which are very frequent in Caithneſs.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this pariſh were, in 1755, 1287 ;—on 23d February 1791, as follows :

Examinable perſons 6 years and upwards,			
	Males,	639	
	Females,	744	
		——	1383 examinable.
Under 6 years of age,—	Boys,	105	
	Girls,	104	
		——	209 children.
	In all,		1592 ſouls.

The people are all of the eſtabliſhed Church, except 20 or thereabouts, who attend the Antiburgher Seceder Meeting-houſes in Wick or Thurſo. The firſt ſettlement of the Seceders in Caithneſs was in Wick about 20 years ago. The cauſe of their diſaffection, they ſay, is principally on account of the moral doctrines preached up by the eſtabliſhed clergy, whom they accuſe of placing too much weight on the practice of morality.

Church and Poor.—In the pariſh of Bower, the number of people at preſent on the poor's roll are about 35, who receive only about 2 s. 6 d. each, at an average, *per annum*, out of the weekly collections at the kirk, the contributions being, in general, very trifling ; but, on particular occaſions, in collecting for individuals who have fallen into diſtreſs, the country people, in proportion to their circumſtances, ſhow themſelves very liberal.—The ſtipend is 4 chalders of victual, and

and 600 merks money, with 100 merks for communion elements; being 38 l. 17 s. 9⅓ d. Sterling, beſides the victual.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 1 chalder, or 16 bolls oat-meal. The ſchool here was formerly one of the moſt flouriſhing in Caithneſs; but, for 12 years paſt, has had no legally qualified teacher. Mr Alexander Miller merchant in Thurſo, beſtows 5 l. a year on a private ſchool in this pariſh for teaching poor children.

NUM-

NUMBER LI.

UNITED PARISHES OF KIRKWALL AND ST. OLA.

(*County of Orkney.—Preſbytery of Kirkwall.—Synod of Orkney*).

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE BARRY.

Situation and Name.

THESE pariſhes have, for a great number of years, been united, or perhaps never were two diſtinct pariſhes. For a long time they have had the names which they at preſent bear. The track of land which ſtretches around Kirkwall, and which forms the country pariſh, under the name of *St Ola*, was, in all probability, a pariſh before the town was built, and derived that name; but at what period, or on what occaſion, it is uncertain, from Olaus or Olave, a ſaint, and alſo perhaps a King of Norway. Near the center of that pariſh ſtands the ancient burgh of Kirkwall, built in a narrow ſtrath, extending from the Harbour of Kirkwall, on the north, to the Bay of Scalpa, on the ſouth, which are about two miles diſtant from each other. The direction of the town is in that of the ſtrath. It is waſhed on one ſide by the ſea, which forms the Road of Kirkwall; on the other by a pleaſant inlet of the ſea, which flows by the back of the gardens at high water: It is near an Engliſh mile in length; its breadth is very inconſiderable; and it has only one ſtreet,

ſtretching from end to end, very inconvenient from its narrowneſs, as well as from the badneſs of its pavement; and, towards this ſtreet, the ends or gables of the houſes are generally placed, which gives the town rather an aukward appearance. The time when, and the perſons by whom this place was founded, are both of them loſt in the darkneſs of antiquity. If credit is to be given to the Poems of Oſſian, to the time when they are thought to have been written, and to the interpretation that has been given of them, it was of conſiderable note at a very early period. This was perhaps the Carricthura of that juſtly celebrated work, where was the Palace of Cathulla King of Inniſtore, which was beſieged by Trothal, on account of an indignity which he imagined he had received from that Prince, and which was afterwards delivered by Cathulla's good friend and ally the mighty Fingal. The Danes, we are informed, called it Kirkivog, which both Buchanan and Forfeus improperly thought ſhould have been written Cracoviaca; and that this word had firſt been corrupted into Circua, and thence to Kirkwall. But all theſe words are ſaid to ſignify the ſame thing, namely, Kirkvaa or Kirkwaa, the Great Church, or perhaps the Church of St Magnus.—The number of houſes it contains amounts to about 300; and, though it be the common practice for one family only to occupy a houſe, yet it ſometimes happens that a houſe lodges two, or even more families. Many of theſe houſes bear ſtrong marks of old age, as the doors and windows are very ſmall, the walls uncommonly thick, and almoſt all the apartments narrow, gloomy, and irregular. To this form, however, there are alſo many exceptions; for ſuch of them as have been lately repaired or rebuilt, and particularly ſuch new ones as have been erected, may, both for elegance and conveniency, compare with thoſe of any other town of the ſame extent in Scotland.

Cathedral.

Cathedral.—The Cathedral of St Magnus, the King's Caſtle, and the Biſhops and Earl's Palaces, are the only buildings here that are any ways remarkable. The firſt of theſe is a large Gothic pile, reared by the ſuperſtition of the dark ages, nearly in the ſame form and dimenſions with many others in different parts of the kingdom. Rognwald, Count of Orkney, we are told, laid the foundation of it in the year 1138. Biſhop Stewart, who lived in the time of King James IV. made an addition of three pillars or arches to the eaſt end of it, with a window, which, for grandeur and beauty, is far ſuperior to any others in the fabric; and Robert Reid, the laſt Popiſh Biſhop of this ſee of Orkney, added three pillars to the weſt end of it, which were never completely finiſhed, which, in point of elegance, are much inferior to the former. The length of this ſtately fabric, on the outſide, is 226 feet; its breadth 56; the height of the main roof is 71; and, from the level of the floor, to the top of the ſteeple, is 133 feet. The roof is ſupported by a row of 14 pillars on each ſide, beſides four, the moſt magnificent of the whole church that ſupport the ſteeple. In it there is an excellent chime of bells, which, by the inſcription upon them, appear to have been made by Robert Borthwick, in the Caſtle of Edinburgh, 1528; and they were furniſhed to the Cathedral by Biſhop Robert Maxwell. The window in the eaſt is 36 feet high, by 12 broad, including a circular roſe window, at the top 12 feet diameter. There is a window in the weſt end ſomewhat ſimilar, but much ſmaller; as alſo a roſe window on the ſouth gable of the croſs, of like form and dimenſions with that on the top of the eaſt window. The circumference of the pillars that ſupport the roof is 15, and that of thoſe on which the ſteeple ſtands is 24 feet nearly. This church is built of free ſtone, cut both on the out and inſide, covered at preſent with grey ſlate; and is certainly the

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moſt entire one in Scotland, St Mungo's at Glaſgow not excepted; in which ſtate it has been preſerved by the judicious management of the kirk-ſeſſion, out of the ſeat rents, and other trifling funds, without any the leaſt expence to either the town or the country heritors.

Caſtle and Palaces.—Oppoſite to the Cathedral of St Magnus, on the weſt ſide of the ſtreet, ſtood the King's Caſtle of Kirkwall. Time, and the ravages of war, have long ſince laid it in ruins. No tradition remains by whom it was founded; though it is probable, as Wallace obſerves, from a ſtone placed in the wall next the ſtreet, on which there was ſeen, even in his time, engraven the mitre of a Biſhop with his arms, that it has been built by ſome Biſhop of Orkney. The walls of it are very thick; the dimenſions are large; and the ſtones with which it is conſtructed are ſo firmly cemented together, that it is more difficult to dig them from the rubbiſh of it in which they are buried, than it would be from a quarry. This fortreſs ſeems to have been in good repair, and a place of no inconſiderable ſtrength, in the days of Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney. This man was ſon of Robert Stewart, natural ſon of King James V. who, in 1581, was created Earl of Orkney. His ſon Patrick, who was a man of a haughty turn of mind, and of as cruel a diſpoſition, committed many acts of oppreſſion againſt the people, and of rebellion againſt his Sovereign; and, in order to ſcreen himſelf from the puniſhment he ſo juſtly deſerved on that account, he took refuge in the Caſtle, which he maintained with much deſperate valour for ſome time againſt the King's troops, till it was at laſt taken and demoliſhed. This ſame Earl had built that extenſive and elegant manſion on the eaſt ſide of the town, known now by the name of the Earl's Palace. From the date above the principal door, which is

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ſtill legible, it appears to have been built in 1607, and indicates much vanity in the founder; for there are engraven on ſtones, on many parts of it, the capital letters P, E, O, the initials of his name and dignity. This Palace has walls remarkably well built, though only of grey ſtone. They are at preſent as ſtraight as if they had been erected only 20 years ago; and there are on ſeveral parts of the building, particularly on the corners, projections of hewn ſtone, in the form of turrets, but, in fact, balcony windows. One very ſpacious and elegant hall is the chief part of the manſion: Its dimenſions are 58 feet long, 20 broad, and 14 high. There is a very large chimney on the ſide, and a leſſer one on the north end of it. A fine Gothic window, 12 feet by 13, lights it from the ſouth; and, on the eaſt, there are no fewer than two, not much different in form, and 12 feet by 12 each of them. The building, though conſiderably long, conſiſts of only two ſtoreys, which renders it leſs pleaſant to the eye, and gives it rather a mean appearance. The ground-floor is divided into a great many vaults or cells, with little ſlits of windows; and this circumſtance muſt have them made not only dark, but damp; and, of conſequence, if ever they were inhabited, very inconvenient and diſagreeable habitations. Near the door, which is entered from the north, is the bottom of a beautiful ſtair, which, by three flights of ſteps, leads to the hall; below which is a well built of cut free ſtone, and furniſhed with water by leaden pipes under ground, from the high land to the eaſt of Kirkwall. Like other fabrics reared at the ſame period, variety ſeems to have been more ſtudied here than uniformity. For a long time paſt, it has been unroofed; and no perſon has dwelt in it ſince Dr M'Kenzie was Biſhop of this place, who died in 1688.

Almoſt

Almoſt adjoining to this ſtands the ruin, denominated the Biſhop's Palace, of much greater antiquity; for neither record, nor even tradition, has ventured to aſſert any thing requeſting either the time or circumſtances of its foundation. So long ago as 1263, the year in which Haco, King of Norway, undertook an expedition againſt Alexander III. King of Scotland, on account of a diſpute that had ariſen about the Weſtern Iſles, it would appear to have been a place of conſequence. This Monarch, on returning from the mouth of the Clyde and the Highlands of Argyleſhire, where he had ſpent the ſummer in waging war with the Scotch, with little ſucceſs, reſolved to winter in Orkney; and, for this purpoſe, ſtationed his ſhips in the harbours about the main land, and he himſelf took up his quarters in Kirkwall. Here he kept court in a hall in the Biſhop's Palace for ſome time, till, worn out with diſeaſe, occaſioned perhaps by diſappointment, and the fatigues of his unſucceſsful campaign in the ſouth, he expired, after a lingering illneſs, and was interred with much pomp in the Cathedral Church of Kirkwall, near the ſteps that lead to the ſhrine of St Magnus, Earl of Orkney. Biſhop Reid repaired, we are certain, or, more properly, rebuilt ſeveral parts of this ancient manſion; for, on more than one place, there are to be ſeen, engraven on ſtones in the wall, the firſt letters of his name, and below them his arms and his mitre. The whole of that round tower, to the north-weſt, was raiſed by him; and, on the ſide that looks to the town, there is a ſmall nitch in the wall, occupied, even at preſent, by a rude ſtone ſtatue of that very celebrated Prelate. Near to this Palace, on the weſt, this beneficent churchman mortified to the town of Kirkwall a piece of ground, for the purpoſe of building a college, for inſtructing youth in grammar and the various branches of philoſophy, with a very conſiderable ſum of money, for carrying his

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pious deſign into effect: But his death, which unfortunately happened ſoon after, on his returning from France, where he had been witneſſing Queen Mary's marriage with the Dauphin, prevented any part of this excellent plan's being carried into execution.

Private Houſes.—No marks can be obſerved of the town's being ever of greater extent than it is at preſent; nor are there any houſes in it uninhabited nor fallen into ruin, and no new ones built on their foundation. So far is this from being the caſe, that a good many houſes have been built beyond the precincts of the burgh, though ſo near it as to make a part of the town; and within it a houſe no ſooner goes into diſrepair, or tumbles down, than a new one is raiſed in its ſtead, of more than double or treble its dimenſions. Beſides, houſes of every ſort have become of more requeſt of late than they uſed to be, from a competition among thoſe who wiſh to rent them; and they cannot be obtained but with much difficulty, and at a rent more than double of that which was formerly given for them. Proviſions, too, of every ſort, are raiſed in as great plenty as they were at any former period, and brought into the town in as conſiderable, if not in greater quantity; and yet they cannot be purchaſed now for leſs than double the money they coſt 20 or 30 years ago. To this it may be added, that, ſince the writer of this account was ſettled miniſter here, 1782, an accurate liſt of the people has been twice taken by him, or under his eye, and at his direction; and, though the interval between them was only about 6 years, the latter liſt exceeded the former by near 200.

Trade.—The commerce of this place, though it can by no means be called flouriſhing, is, without doubt, rather in an improving

improving condition. The catalogue of the commodities which this country produces, and which are carried out of it, either over ſeas or coaſtways, as well as of the articles brought into it, is very conſiderable, as will appear evident from a detail of particulars. The principal articles which are generally exported are beef, pork, butter, tallow, hides, calf ſkins, rabbit ſkins, ſalt fiſh, oil, feathers, linen yarn, and coarſe linen cloth, kelp; and, in years of fruitfulneſs, corn in conſiderable quantity. The chief commodities imported are wood, flax, coal, ſugar, ſpirits, wines, ſnuff and tobacco, flour and biſquit, ſoap, leather, hard-ware, broad-cloth, printed linens, and printed cottons. The imports, in the following account of their value, are ſtated at the prices given for them at the places from which they are commonly brought; and theſe are London, Mancheſter, Newcaſtle, Aberdeen, Glaſgow, and Edinburgh. The value of the exports, on the other hand, is eſtimated from the prices they moſt commonly bring at the markets where they are ſold; and theſe are, for the moſt part, the above mentioned places, with the addition of Dunbarton, Liverpool, and Briſtol. For both the kind and the quantity of the articles imported and exported, the information is drawn from the cuſtomhouſe books; and, where theſe ſeemed to labour under any defects, they have been ſupplied from the books of merchants and other traders. To give a clear idea of the trade, three years have been taken, 1770, 1780, and 1790; and the value of the imports and exports for theſe years, at the rates above ſtated, is as follows:

Years.

Years.	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.	Shipping.	Tonnage.	No. of Men.
1770	L. 12,018 4	L. 10,406 6	L. 1611 18	17	825	76
1780	23,247 10	14,011 6	9236 4	20	940	90
1790	26,598 12	20,803 0	5795 12	33	2000	170
	L. 61,864 6	L. 45,220 12	L. 16,643 14			

Manufactures.—If we except linen yarn, and coarſe linen cloth, and kelp, which with propriety may be conſidered as the chief commodity, there is no manufacture here of any conſequence. About the beginning of this century, indeed, and a little earlier, the wool of the country is ſaid to have been wrought into cloths and ſtuffs for the wear of every rank of the inhabitants, and even for exportation. It is excellently fitted for the purpoſe, for it is in general very fine; ſome of it is ſhort, and would make excellent broad cloth, and ſome of it being long, is as well calculated for ſtuffs and ſtockings. In ſome families ſtill cloth, of an excellent quality, is made of it for their own uſe; and, not very long ſince, ſtockings have been wrought by ſome of the women, who are by no means very expert at the buſineſs, which have been ſold in the public market for near about 30 s. Sterling. Now, however, the ſheep which were once very numerous, and are conſiderably ſo ſtill, and the wool which they bear, are equally neglected, as almoſt all the articles for men and womens wear, which were formerly manufactured of Orkney materials, to the great benefit of the place, are now almoſt all of them imported.

The manufacture of linen yarn was introduced 1747, and as every innovation commonly is among a rude and ignorant people, it was at firſt very unpopular. Soon, however, it triumphed over thoſe difficulties that aroſe from vulgar prejudice; it was diffuſed pretty generally among the iſlands; and is ſaid in years of extreme dearth and ſcarcity to have preſerved the lives of ſome poor people, who otherwiſe would have died of want, and certainly made thoſe who were em-

ployed in it live much more comfortably. For the ſpace of 15 or 20 years, while it was under the management of one, or a very few men, who attended to and were ſufficient judges of the buſineſs, it flouriſhed much, and produced for export annually near 25,000 ſpindles of yarn, which, in the opinion of thoſe who ſaw and examined it, was as good as any in Scotland. After that period it began to decline; for ſome people obſerving with regret the profits which they imagined thoſe by whom it was introduced and conducted made, reſolved to ſhare of them, by importing flax, dreſſing it, and giving it out to ſpin among the people. The conſequence naturally was, that the ſpinners no ſooner obſerved a competition among their employers, than they were more careleſs about performing their labour; the yarn was ill ſpun, worſe meaſured, and worſe counted; and by this means, in a very few years, it loſt all the character which it had formerly gained in the market. The ſhopkeepers in Kirkwall and Stromneſs, and alſo ſome of thoſe in the iſlands, give almoſt all of them out lint to ſpin, and even ſome of the landholders exact the ſpinning of yarn from their tenants as a part of their rent; and this circumſtance of its being at preſent in ſo many hands muſt, it is evident, have gone far towards haſtening the ruin of the manufacture. Still there is ſome lint ſpun here, and carried to Edinburgh, Glaſgow, and wherever the price of yarn is higheſt; and when the price is low, which has been the caſe for ſome years paſt, the yarn is manufactured into linen cloth, moſtly for the Engliſh market. Beſides the yarn which was ſent ſouth laſt year, and the quantity bartered with the merchants who come over from Murray, which is ſometimes conſiderable, there was ſtamped by Mr Magnus Lindſay about 30,000 yards of coarſe linen intended for ſale, and not for private families. Much more advantage might this manufacture have been of, had the yarn been

been ſpun from flax raiſed in the place, where the ſoil is believed to be very fit for the purpoſe.

The manufacture of kelp has been much more fortunate than that of linen yarn. About the year 1730, it is ſaid to have been introduced, and had long to ſtruggle hard againſt the ſtrong and rapid ſtream of popular prejudice. Averſe to have any kind of labour introduced among them, but what they had been accuſtomed to ſee and hear of, they repreſented to the proprietors, how hurtful that new buſineſs was likely to be, for they could have no doubt of its driving the fiſh from the coaſt, and it would therefore ruin the fiſhing; they were certain it would deſtroy both the corn and the graſs, and they were much afraid, that it might even prevent their women from having children. As the price was very low for the firſt ten years, the quantity made was but trifling. From the year 1740 to 1760, the price is reported to have been 45 s. *per* ton, and the money which it is believed to have brought into the country during that period near about 2000 l. *per annum*. The average price for the ſubſequent ten years amounted to about four guineas *per* ton, and the whole value to the place to above 6000 l. Sterling *per annum*. Of each ton at the market from the year 1770 to 1780, the price roſe at a medium to about 5 l. and the groſs ſum which the proprietors in that time received for it was not leſs than 10,000 l. *per annum*. For 13 years preceding the preſent 1791, the value of a ton was neareſt to 6 l. and the quantity each year to the ſum of 17,000 l. Sterling. Thus, in the ſpace of 50 years, the proprietors of theſe iſlands, where the ſeaſons are very deceitful, and the crops can by no means be depended upon for ſubſiſting the inhabitants, have received in addition to their eſtates, the enormous ſum of 370,000 l. Sterling. A ſum of this extent introduced in a country where money was formerly ſcarce, where there could not be

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ſaid to be any other kind of manufacture, and where fiſheries which might have been ſuppoſed to conſtitute the riches of the country, were neglected, muſt, it is evident, have produced the moſt remarkable conſequences. That it has done ſo here, may appear from the ſlighteſt obſervation. The manufacture of kelp for ſome years paſt has employed near 3000 hands, and every one of thoſe during June and July, the months when it is commonly manufactured, will earn about 40 s. Sterling. Since the year 1780, there has been ſuch a failure in the crops for 6 or 7 years, that Orkney has ſometimes been almoſt viſited by a famine, and if the people had not had the produce of this very beneficial article to depend on, many of the poor in all likelihood would have ſtarved; while the lairds, inſtead of being able to help them, would have been ſtripped of their eſtates, and reduced to bankruptcy. Many other effects beſides preſerving the lives and the eſtates of thoſe connected with it, have been produced by this manufacture. Induſtry, which was before very low, has conſiderably increaſed. The lower claſs of people live much better in point of food, clothing, and houſes; and ſince they began to know of what importance they are to their ſuperiors, they are throwing off by degrees, that ſervile ſubjection under which theſe iſlanders were formerly kept, and diſcovering more and more of the ſpirit of liberty. But while we trace with pleaſure the advantages which it has produced, candour forbids us to conceal its diſadvantages. Owing to the kelp manufacture, every ſpecies of proviſions has greatly increaſed in price, which makes it difficult for thoſe to live who have only fixed incomes. Wages are much higher. Agriculture, which in every country is the firſt, and moſt neceſſary of all arts, is greatly neglected; and a ſtile of living has been introduced among the proprietors, which their lands can by no means ſupport, and which, if ever this

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manufacture ſhould fail, muſt bring certain ruin upon them, their tenants, and their families.

Kirkwall is compoſed of ſeveral ſorts of people, namely the gentlemen of property, who with their families generally reſide here;—ſhopkeepers, who have multiplied almoſt tenfold of late;—tradeſmen, ſailors, boatmen, and domeſtic ſervants.

Education.—Here we have an excellent ſchool, under the direction of two regularly bred, and well qualified maſters, who with much fidelity teach the learned languages, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and the various branches of mathematics. This one is for boys, and another is juſt now to be eſtabliſhed for girls, who are to be inſtructed by a woman ſufficiently accompliſhed for the purpoſe, in reading Engliſh well, and writing it gramatically, all kinds of needlework, the French language, and muſic. To diffuſe the bleſſings of education among the poor as well as the rich, a charity-ſchool has lately been erected, and in it are taught reading, writing, accounts, and the principles of the Chriſtian religion.

Soil and Culture.—The ſoil through this pariſh is very various. In ſome parts, eſpecially towards the hills or high grounds, we meet with a mixture of cold clay and moſs; near the ſhore it is generally of a ſandy nature; rich black loam is alſo to be met with in ſome few places, eſpecially near Kirkwall; and not only there, but in almoſt every other pariſh in the country, the ſoil is ſhallow, with a bottom of rock that is ſoft and mouldering. In muſt places it is very fertile, conſidering the way in which they manage it. The plough which the ordinary claſs of people uſe, is of a ſingular conſtruction, having only one ſtilt, and ſtrange kind of irons.

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With this they only scratch the surface of the ground in the spring, for they labour none in winter nor in harvest. The only manure they use is rotten ware or sea-weed, alone or mixed with turf, and without ever giving it a summer fallow to destroy the weeds, with which it is generally overrun. They sow on it the only grain they have, a small kind of black oats, and a puny sort of bear alternately.

Air.—The air in Kirkwall and around it through the parish, must be confessed to be rather moist than dry; and yet it cannot with justice be said that the place is unhealthy, for no epidemical distempers are generally prevalent here, if we except the small-pox, measles, chincough, and others of that nature. To damps, however, occasioned by the great quantity of rain that falls, especially in the winter season, and the spongy nature of the soil that retains it, together with small lochs of fresh water here and there to be met with, are to be ascribed, perhaps, those diseases that affect us most frequently. The most common of these are pains in the stomach, and in the bowels—the king's evil—frequent colds and coughs, with asthma, consumptions, rheumatisms, and dropsies.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is only one mineral spring, so far as has been discovered, in the parish, and that is about a mile and an half from Kirkwall, on the post-road to Holm. It has been long known by the name of Blakeleys-well, for what reason is not said. It seems to be a chalybeate; and has been frequently used with much effect in removing complaints of the stomach and intestines.—The shores not very high but rocky, are washed by the sea for about 15 miles; in which there are sometimes caught silaks and cuths, which are the young of the seath fish, small cod, haddocks,

haddocks, mackrel, herrings, lobſters, partens, cockles, muſcles, and ſpouts or razor fiſh. Kirkwall is the place where they come for ſale; and their price cannot be eaſily eſtimated, for they are purchaſed for meal, ſalt, bent, a kind of tough graſs for making ropes to bind their horſes and cows, and potatoes, and the quantity of theſe articles given for them varies much, according to the ſeaſons of the year, and the plenty or ſcarceneſs of the commodity. Sea weed is every where uſed as manure, though there be marl at no great diſtance, ſeemingly of an excellent quality, and were this applied to their land in a judicious manner, it might greatly improve the fields. The kelp which conſtitutes the chief ingredient in the manufacture of glaſs, ſoap, allum, and of ſome others, is formed of the aſhes of the different ſpecies of ſea weed, burned in a round hole in the earth made for the purpoſe, and the average quantity of it which the pariſh of St Ola produces, may be about 50 or 60 tons annually.

To the north the road of Kirkwall, to the eaſt the bay of Miel and Ingonez bay, and towards the ſouth the bay of Scalpa, the ordinary landing place from Caithneſs, are the principal roads we have; and both the bay of Ingonez, and the road of Kirkwall, are large, ſafe, and commodious harbours.

Almoſt all the quadrupeds are of the domeſtic kinds. According to a very abſurd cuſtom the horſes are generally bought from Caithneſs when they are a year old, though they might certainly be raiſed, as experience demonſtrates, in as great perfection in the country. They are well ſhaped, though of a ſmall ſize; they are neither deficient in ſtrength nor in mettle, and when they are trained with any degree of care, they are fit for the draught as well as the ſaddle. To many diſeaſes they are ſubject through bad management; for they have often improper provender given them, both in the ſtable

ſtable and in the field;—they often want food in ſufficient quantity, and they are expoſed to heavy rains after being warmed with riding or with work;—the houſes in which they ſtand are commonly dirty, and no attention is ever paid to cleaning the ſkin of that moſt uſeful animal. Great numbers of them are kept on every farm, more it would appear than are neceſſary, and as they bring when in their prime about 5 l. Sterling one with another, and many of them die before they are old, the expence of labouring with them muſt be conſiderable. This has induced ſome gentlemen to turn their attention of late to the rearing and uſing of oxen; and theſe animals which here anſwer very well, have now become pretty numerous. They are much leſs liable to diſeaſe than horſes; their original price is not above one half of that of the other; they can be fed fully as cheap; and when through old age they become unfit for ſervice, they will bring as much money as they at firſt coſt from the butchers in Kirkwall and Stromneſs. The cows of this place are alſo ſmall, but well formed, and they give milk of a good kind, and in ſufficient quantity, which conſidering the great numbers of them which are every where kept, and the ſmall quantity and coarſe kind of food they have, is really ſurpriſing. The ordinary ſize of country cows when about 6 years of age, ſell at preſent for about 40 s. or 45 s. and this price is more than double of what the ſame cows would have brought 20 years ago.

Animals.—The ſheep though very numerous, there being ſuppoſed to be in the whole iſlands about 50,000, turn to little account, as their is ſo little care taken of them, that they are allowed to run wild in the hills, which are almoſt all of them commonties. Here theſe innocent and defenceleſs animals, with their ears cut into a thouſand different forms, to mark out the perſons to whom they belong, roam

at

at large, expoſed to all the ſeverities of hunger and cold, to the depredations of ravenous birds of various ſorts, eſpecially carrion crows and eagles, to dogs which here abound, and to thieves of the human kind more ravenous and deſtructive than any of them. The breed is ſo puny, that 5 s. is conſidered as no bad price for a ſheep fit for the knife in autumn. Few of them have any horns; their faces are white or grey, and their tails are remarkably ſhort;—they bear at a medium a merk, or a pound and a half of excellent wool, which is valued here at little more than 6 d. and from the beſt information, they ſeem to be the ſame kind with the ſheep in Shetland. Notwithſtanding their want of food and of being tended, and all the diſadvantages under which they labour, they are much more prolific than thoſe in almoſt any other part of the kingdom. Two lambs at a birth is common, three we may ſometimes meet with, and if the paſture be but tolerable, and the ewes are left at liberty and not ſhackled, which is ſometimes the caſe, the mothers have milk ſufficient to maintain them. Their fleſh in general is not very pleaſant; and of ſuch of them as are compelled by hunger or led by cuſtom to feed upon ſea-ware, the carcaſe is black and dry, and when cooked the taſte of the mutton ſomewhat reſembles veniſon. A fact reſpecting theſe animals, which is as well vouched as it is curious, muſt here be mentioned. In the little uninhabited iſlands, or holms as they are called, which are here in conſiderable numbers, ſheep, eſpecially ewes, are put where they remain the whole year for paſture. If in the ſpring about lambing time, any perſon goes into the iſland with a dog, or even without one, the ewes ſuddenly take fright, and through the influence of fear it is imagined, inſtantly drop down as dead as if their brains had been pierced through with a muſket bullet. Such as die in this

manner, are commonly found to have two, and ſometimes three lambs in their bellies.

Goats have never been common here, though one would imagine from the hills, and rugged rocks bold and ſteep, with which Orkney in ſeveral places abounds, they might have been of benefit to the proprietors.—Swine there are in vaſt numbers; and as they go generally at large, even in ſummer, they are uncommonly deſtructive to the corn and graſs ground, and particularly to the potatoes. The kind that is here is remarkably ſmall, and very ugly, the back being very high, and the briſtles long and coarſe, and the colour which they commonly have a dirty white; the pork of them when pickled for ſome time makes excellent eating, and ſells for 2 d. *per* pound, and the whole carcaſe of a middle ſized one may be purchaſed for 5 s.—There are rabbits in great plenty, but no hares; nor did ever wolves or foxes diſturb the flocks, or if they did the ſpecies has long ſince periſhed.—Six different kinds of dogs are here, the ſhepherds dog, the greyhound, the pointer, the water dog, the maſtiff, the lap dog, and the terrier.—The black Muſcovy water rat, which is the only one now to be met with, has deſtroyed the grey or brown ſort, and has proved as deſtructive as it is prolific. There are plenty of ſeals and otters.

Birds.—The domeſticated fowls are common here, the cock and hen, the tame geeſe and tame ducks, turkeys, and pea-fowls. The wild fowl of theſe iſlands are very numerous. Among theſe we may reckon eagles of various ſorts; wild geeſe and ducks in no ſmall variety, herons, hawks of different ſizes, gulls of many kinds, the ember gooſe, the dunter or eider duck, the ſly gooſe, the awk, the lyre, and the tyſte, the pickternie, the norie, and culterneb, the calaw, the ſcarf, and the ſeapie or the chaldrick. To this liſt muſt be added

ſwans,

ſwans, gannets, crows, pigeons, curlieus, the green and common plover, moorfowl, and ſnipe, the ſtarling, and fieldfare, the ſand and ſky-lark, the ſwallow, the ſnowflake, the rail or corncrake, the wren, the check, the linnet, and the ſparrow. How many of theſe are natives of this place cannot with much certainty be determined. But we do not recollect to have ſeen on the ſhores of either England or Scotland the ember gooſe, which is a bird of a large ſize, and an elegant form, which is never ſeen on land, and which is ſuppoſed to hatch her eggs under her wing, where there is a hole which nature it is thought has prepared for the purpoſe. Neither do we remember to have ſeen in the ſouth the dunter or eider ducks, which are ſo remarkable for the fine down which they take from their breaſts to build their neſts;—nor the tyſte or lyre, which laſt is a bird ſomewhat larger than a pigeon, and though extraordinary fat, and morever very fiſhy taſted, is thought by ſome to be extremely delicious. No partridges, nor pheaſants, nor land-pies, nor cuckoos, are ever ſeen in this country. The birds of paſſage are pretty numerous. Among theſe the ſwans, the horie geeſe, or as they are called in England the brant geeſe, which take their departure from Orkney in the ſpring for the north to obey the dictates of nature, the pickternies, which come here about the beginning of the month of May from the eaſt or north-eaſt, and the lapwing or green plover, and perhaps the ſwallow, and the rail or corncrake, which come here ſome time in the ſpring from the ſouth, are the principal. After a hard gale of wind, eſpecially from the eaſt, ſouth-eaſt, or ſouth, birds are often to be ſeen which are by no means inhabitants of this region. Theſe ſeem to be overtaken by the ſtorm, and driven hither by force of weather, and as they frequently diſappear in a ſhort time, they either perhaps re-

turn

turn to the places from whence they came, or die through the influence of a climate not ſuited to their conſtitution.

Population.—Theſe pariſhes are now it would appear more populous than formerly. In 1755, they were rated at 1989 ſouls. According to a liſt recently taken, the numbers are about 2550. Of theſe there are near 2000 in the burgh, and the remainder compoſe the landward pariſh; and the proportion of men to women is as one to two nearly in both of them. Since the year 1780, the marriages, births, and deaths, inſerted in the pariſh regiſter, which, for ſome time paſt at leaſt, has been kept with much accuracy, are as follows:

Years.	*Marriages.*	*Births.*	*Burials.*
1781,	7	41	62
1782,	17	48	41
1783,	17	35	52
1784,	18	42	34
1785,	16	43	38
1786,	21	61	50
1787,	16	52	40
1788,	7	54	46
1789,	25	61	50
1790,	21	69	36

The number of people at or above 10 years of age is a little below the proportion of 5 to 1. Here few inſtances of extreme old age are to be found. Many, however, reach the age of 80 and 85, ſome to 90, and ſome few years ago there died in this town, a gentlewoman who had been wife to Mr Thomas Baikie, the firſt preſbyterian clergyman of Kirkwall, at the age of 95 years, well authenticated.

Though the country pariſh be ſmall, it contains a conſiderable number of farmers. This is owing to the narrow limits

mits of their poſſeſſions. They amount to 50, excluſive of cottars or cottagers. Their families conſiſt of about 10 perſons each, and this number includes their children, who when they are grown up, whether they be male or female, remain with their parents in the capacity of ſervants.

In the town the tradeſmen are pretty numerous. The maſter weavers are 53, their journeymen 8, and their apprentices 14.—The ſhoemakers amount to maſters 16, journeymen 2, and apprentices 17.—The taylors are maſters 15, no journeymen, apprentices 11.—The hammermen, which include ſeveral crafts, are maſter wrights 22, with only 1 journeyman, and 29 apprentices; maſter maſons 7, journeymen 16, and apprentices 6; maſter ſlaters 6, no journeymen, and only 2 apprentices; the ſmiths have 4 maſters, 1 journeyman, and 4 apprentices; and there are only 3 coopers, and all of them maſters. The number of ſailors that live here varies according to circumſtances. In time of war there are very few; peace brings home many of them; at preſent there are about 200, and above 25 boatmen. Beſides navigating the ſhips belonging to the place, which employs a conſiderable number, they go generally to ſea in fair weather to catch a few fiſh for the immediate ſubſiſtance of themſelves and families. To the hurt of this country, and perhaps of the kingdom at large, there are here no fiſhers by profeſſion.

The town contains 120 domeſtic women ſervants, and not above 10 or 12 domeſtic men ſervants. Many more reſide in the country pariſh; for there, every man that rents a farm, however ſmall, muſt have at leaſt one male, and two female labouring ſervants. This will make the number of them amount to upwards of 150. For ſome conſiderable time paſt it has been the cuſtom, perhaps for the ſake of ſociety, for the gentlemen of property to reſide in Kirkwall. This has been undoubtedly attended with ſeveral bad conſequences, among

mong which perhaps may be reckoned, an increaſed luxury, from an emulation that has been excited amongſt them, and their tenants being deprived of the benefit of their example in improving their lands, and even perhaps in improving their manners. To convince us that this obſervation is founded, it is obvious, that in ſuch iſlands and pariſhes as the proprietors, when they have been men of ſenſe and virtue, have for ſome time reſided, the people are more decent in their appearance, more civilized, and much more induſtrious. There are at preſent a dozen of gentlemens families reſident here. Two eſtabliſhed clergymen, 1 phyſician that practices, 2 ſurgeon apothecaries, and 4 practiſing proctors or attorneys. To the cauſes which have been mentioned above, as contributing to increaſe the population, we may with propriety add three more, namely the almoſt total failure of the crops for ſome years, which drove many poor families from the iſles into the town; the partial ſuppreſſion of ſmuggling, which has forced the monied men to lay out their capitals in more uſeful, as well as in more honeſt induſtry; and the circumſtance of many of the owners of kelp living here, and laying out a part of their augmented incomes in employing tradeſmen. The marriages, eſpecially among what are called the better ſort of people, are uſually very productive. They have often 10, 12, and even 15 children. There is a clergyman in this Synod ſtill alive, though above 80 years of age, to whom one wife bore 22; and the preſent provoſt's father, who was a native of this country, had by only two wives 36 children.—As the trade is but ſmall, and the manufactories ſtill leſs, in proportion to the population, every year drives many of the moſt promiſing young men abroad in ſearch of a livelihood. Many female ſervants annually leave this place for London, Newcaſtle, and particularly for Edinburgh, from which they ſeldom

dom return; for after ſerving a while, which they commonly do with much honeſt ſobriety, they get married, and rear numerous families. The tradeſmen that are bred here go alſo to the ſame places in conſiderable numbers, where they not only ſupport themſelves with credit, but ſometimes attain much eminence in their reſpective profeſſions. But the ſea, as it might be naturally enough ſuppoſed, is the element of theſe iſlanders. Moſt of the young men, even from their earlieſt days, ſhow for that element a ſtrong predeliction. Accordingly, every year many of them engage with the Hudſon's Bay Company, with whom they go out, and live generally five years in their ſettlements. Some inliſt themſelves with the Iceland, and ſome with the Greenland fiſhermen, with whom they only continue for 3 or 4 months; and when they return, the money which they have earned inſtead of furniſhing the means of induſtry, is almoſt always ſpent in idleneſs, and often in diſſipation. Many of the men are employed alſo in the royal navy; for in the laſt war, as well as in ſome of the preceding, when the navy books were from curioſity looked into, there were found in them upwards of 2000 Orkney men.—Kirkwall and St Ola united, contains 400 houſes, and each houſe of conſequence lodges about ſix people at a medium.

Productions.—For the plants raiſed here we refer to Wallace's Hiſtory, where they are not only enumerated, but ſome of them deſcribed with much ſeeming accuracy. There are almoſt no trees in all this country, if we except a few fruit trees in Kirkwall. They ſeem, however, to have grown in conſiderable numbers, and no ſmall ſize formerly; for in the peat moſſes, which are common in many of the iſlands, they are dug up nearly as frequently as they are in other parts of the kingdom. The natives imagine, that no trees of any kind

kind will ever live, much leſs flouriſh in Orkney, on account of ſomething very unfriendly in either the ſoil or the climate. The attempts, however, which have been hitherto made to raiſe trees have not been very judicious. A rich ſoil in a ſheltered ſituation has not been pitched upon for that purpoſe; the ground has not been properly prepared; nor have the weeds after planting been from time to time picked from it; nor yet have the ſpecies of trees been well choſen; nor planted in clumps thick enough to ſcreen each other from the influence of the climate in their infancy. Should it after repeated judicious trials prove as certain that trees will not grow here now, as it is that they did formerly, natural hiſtory would be called upon to ſolve a curious queſtion, What are the cauſes of this ſo remarkable alteration?

The black cattle, conſidering the extent of the pariſh, muſt be regarded as numerous: They are upwards of 500 in number; and the horſes, young and old, amount to near 300; and the ſheep, that run almoſt wild upon the commonty, do not exceed 1500. The number of acres it contains has never been aſcertained by any meaſurement; and therefore the proportion between the waſte ground, and what has been uſed for raiſing grain, can only be known by conjecture. It is ſuppoſed to be as ſix to one, or thereabouts. Little or no graſs-ſeed has ever been uſed here, except in a very few places, where it has thriven well, and turned out an excellent improvement. A good many cabbages are now planted in the vicinity of the town, which the inhabitants find their account in uſing plentifully, though they pay, for every acre of the land where they grow, fully 3l. Sterling. The reſt of the arable ground is cultivated, though in a very bungling manner, for the purpoſe of producing oats and bear alternately. Much of the waſte land might be improved at even a ſmall expence, into near ten times its preſent value; and not only

grain

grain of various ſorts, and of a quality much ſuperior to what is produced juſt now, might be raiſed on it, but alſo graſs, turnip, and other green crops, to the no ſmall benefit of Kirkwall. Such parts as are already in tillage, ſeem of a nature well fitted for the production of flax and hemp; and, could theſe very uſeful articles be produced here, to dreſs and to manufacture them, would afford employment for our people when they are but too often idle through the tedious ſeaſon of winter. But making of kelp rouſes the attention, and occupies the induſtry of almoſt all deſcriptions of men here. Every employment elſe is regarded as of little moment. The farmers here ſeldom yoke the plough, in order to prepare the ſoil for a new crop, till the ſpring ſeaſon arrives, when there is only time to give it a haſty rude ſcratch on the ſurface with the clumſy one-ſtilted plough, juſt before the oats are ſown, which happens generally in the month of March, or about the beginning of April. The land which is intended for bear is commonly ſtirred in the laſt mentioned month; it is ſoon after covered with rotten or freſh ſea-weed as a manure; and it has the ſeed thrown into it when it has received a ſecond plowing in the month of May following. Though, at firſt ſight, it might appear, that, in this remote northern climate, the harveſt would be late, yet this is by no means the caſe. In ordinary ſeaſons, the corn is as ſoon reaped as it is in many places of Scotland; for they begin about the 1ſt of September to cut down the crop, which they continue doing for that month; and, unleſs when the weather is very bad, it is generally all in the corn-yard by the firſt or ſecond week of October.

Language.—The Gaelic language, ſo far as can be diſcovered, was never ſpoken by the people of theſe pariſhes. They at preſent, like the reſt of Scotland, ſpeak a mixture of Scotch

and English, which language has taken place of the Norn or Norwegian, which anciently prevailed much; and some old people that live near the middle of the main land, are said to have, some years ago, retained not only many of its words, but some of its phrases. Many of the names of places seem to be derived from that language; of which *Holland*, which signifies a house built on an eminence; *Garth*, which implies a place where there is a small patch of ground cultivated amidst a large waste; and *Cleat*, which means a house on a gently rising ground, are said to be examples.

Rent.—So far as can be ascertained, the land rent of St Ola may amount to about 500 l.; and the rent of the houses in Kirkwall, which it is still more difficult to know with certainty, is conjectured to make the sum of 900 l. in all 1400 l. Sterling.

Church and Poor.—There are two established clergymen here who officiate by turns in the Cathedral of St Magnus. The first minister has a manse and a glebe, and the second has neither. The value of the first living, which is paid in malt, butter, and money, at an ordinary conversion, is, including the value of the glebe, 80 l. Sterling. The second minister's living, which is paid in much the same articles, is not worth much above 60 l. Sterling. To both these charges, which were within the bishopric of Orkney, the Bishop, in the time of Episcopacy, presented. The Crown, at the abolition of that mode of worship, succeeded to the rights of the Bishop; and afterwards, either by gift or by favour, or some other way, the Earl of Morton, and then Sir Laurence Dundas, who purchased the superiorities of these islands in 1765, have been considered as the patrons. About 20 years ago, the last mentioned gentleman, wishing to confer

fer an obligation on Kirkwall, on account of favours received or expected, gifted the right of patronage, ſo far as it was in him, to the magiſtrates, town-council, and community; ſince which time the town has claimed and exerciſed the right of preſenting the clergymen of Kirkwall.

The heritors in the country pariſh are 14 in number, and only 4 of them are not reſident. The poor are not dependent upon them; for, though there be commonly 50 or 60 of them upon the roll, beſides others who, through ſickneſs or misfortune, apply ſometimes for charity, they are ſupported by the kirk-ſeſſion out of funds furniſhed by the ordinary collections at the church-door, and occaſional donations, which, at an average, ſeldom exceed 25 l. Sterling. To whatever cauſe the number of the poor may be aſcribed, it ſurely cannot be the dearth of proviſions; for here they are undoubtedly as low as they are in any other diſtrict in the kingdom. In proof of this, we may obſerve, that beef never ſells at above 2 d. and ſeldom at more than 1½ d. *per* pound. Mutton, lamb, and pork, are much about the ſame price. A gooſe, fit for the ſpit, is purchaſed for 1 s.; ducks for as much the pair; hens at 4 d. each; and chickens at 2 d. The Amſterdam pound of cheeſe is worth 2½ d. while the ſame pound of butter is worth 6 d. In years of ordinary plenty, the oats, which are of a ſmall black coarſe kind, ſell at about 5 s. 6 d. the Linlithgow boll; and, while that is the caſe, the bear, which is alſo very ſmall, brings about 7 s. Sterling. The labourers in huſbandry not only here, but through the other iſlands, receive, *per* day, 8 d. of wages; and tradeſmen, particularly wrights and maſons, when they do not work for ſo much the piece, in the common mode, they can earn every day 16 d. or 18 d.

Fuel.—The fuel that is moſt commonly made uſe of is peat and

and turf, which are procured from moſſes at about 2 or 3 miles diſtance. Every cart-load of peats, and the carts are very ſmall, coſts 9 d. the horſe-load a penny; and, to furniſh this article to an ordinary family, whoſe income may be about 50 l. *per annum*, it will require fully 5 l. Sterling. As this neceſſary of life, as well as almoſt every other, has increaſed very much of late, ſome people have begun to uſe coal, carried from the Clyde, from the Forth, and from Tyne; and, though there be impoſed on it a pretty high duty, the moſt abſurd and impolitic that ever the legiſlature thought of, they find it to be cheaper, as well as better firing.

Wages.—To ſupport a man, with a wife and four children, through the year, it would require at leaſt 10 l. and perhaps 11 l. or 12 l.; and all that he is able, by his induſtry in common labour, to procure, does not exceed 8 l. Sterling. The wages of ſervants employed in huſbandry, and maintained in houſes, are, for men, 2 l. 10 s. and for women, not above 15 s. Domeſtic ſervants, though not more uſefully employed, are much better rewarded; for the men that ſerve in that capacity receive no leſs than about 5 l. and the women 20 s. Sterling.

Antiquities.—Through ſeveral parts of this pariſh, as well as almoſt every other in the country, there are to be met with a kind of ruins, many of them of a very large ſize, and all of them ſituated in ſome pleaſant ſpot by the ſea-ſhore, commonly three, or at leaſt two of them, within view of, and at no great diſtance from each other. They are univerſally known here by the name of *Picts houſes*. Such of them as we have ſeen and examined are of a circular form; and, when meaſured as near to the foundation as could be reached, they have been found to be from 100 to about 50

feet

feet diameter. They have been built at ſome very remote period with very large ſtones, without any ſort of cement, contracted gradually from the baſe, as it would appear, to the top, which was perhaps cloſed in the form of a cone, to cover the whole building. Curioſity has looked into ſome; avarice has ſearched others of them; and, when a few of them have been dug, for the purpoſe of procuring ſtones to build with, a great many bones have been found in them, ſome of them human, and ſome of them the bones of other animals. For what important purpoſes ſuch huge piles as theſe were at firſt erected, and to what uſes they have been afterwards applied, cannot now with much certainty be determined.

Near the houſe of Caldale, ſome tumuli have been opened, in which ſtones, placed in the form of ſquare urns, have been found, containing human bones, partly conſumed with fire, intermixed with a conſiderable quantity of aſhes. Several other parts of the pariſh contain tumuli of a ſimilar kind, which, were they opened, might perhaps exhibit contents alſo ſimilar. In moſt places where they are to be found, we meet with ſeveral of them, placed almoſt cloſe by each other; and, in one place, about two miles diſtant from Kirkwall, to the ſouth-eaſt, not far from the Bay of Scalpa, and near the poſt road to Holm, there are five of them, ſo arranged as to form ſomewhat of the appearance of a circle; and this has been conjectured by ſome to be the Circle of Loda, mentioned in the Poems of Oſſian.

Roads.—The ſtate of the roads is very indifferent at preſent. They were made about 30 years ago, through the exertions of the gentlemen of the place, partly by contribution, partly by road-money, and partly by ſtatute labour. One of theſe roads leads to the excellent and much frequented harbour of Deerſound, on the eaſt ſide of the main land; a ſecond to Holm, which

which is the poſt road; and a third to Stromneſs, about 12 miles weſt of us, which is the principal reſort of the ſhipping. Theſe three, together with ſome few more of leſs note, are the only roads that have yet been formed. They are now fallen, in a great meaſure, into decay; and this has been owing to a defect in their original formation. Inſtead of drawing a ditch at ſome diſtance from the road, to carry off the water, which they ought to have done, they have dug one cloſe by the ſide of it, in which the water, running with rapidity, has, in ſome places, undermined and carried away the road itſelf. From time to time, theſe roads have been repaired by means of the ſtatute labour, which is performed here with as much reluctance, and as imperfectly, as any where, and had much better be converted into money. No turnpikes have as yet been erected; and, conſidering the poverty of the country people, and the vaſt number of horſes which they never fail to uſe on almoſt all occaſions, it is probable they would feel the expence of them burdenſome. Since they began to uſe carts, however, which they have now done for ſome conſiderable time paſt, roads, they are abundantly ſenſible, afford them ſeveral ſignal advantages.

Land and Services.—Arable lands rent here from about 3 l. Sterling the acre, which ſome ground gives, for the purpoſes of raiſing cabbages, near the town, to 10 s. or 15 s. in the other parts of the pariſh. The value of the meadow and graſs ground we have no method of aſcertaining. Through the whole of this country the farms are uncommonly ſmall, not being above 10 l. Sterling rent, at an average; but thoſe around Kirkwall are increaſing of late, becauſe the gentlemen have taken ſeveral of them into their own hands, and joined two or three of them together, in order to furniſh proviſions for their families, as there are no public markets. Some of

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the tenants are yet rather in a poor condition. Their leaſes are very ſhort, being only a year, three years, or at longeſt ſeven years; and the abominable practice of exacting graſſums at every renewal is not quite aboliſhed. Neither is the ſtill more blameable cuſtom of demanding ſervices from the tenants quite abandoned. In ſome places, they are required to caſt, and win, and lead peats; to plough ſome days in ſpring, or ſhear a few in harveſt; or to go with boats ſome of their maſters errands upon occaſion. But, to the credit of the proprietors of land, theſe, and ſuch like ſervices, are wearing much out of faſhion; they are now exacted with much leſs ſeverity; they are more limited, and better defined; and, with many, they are aboliſhed altogether. Incloſing of ground is with us yet in its infancy, and confined to a few gentlemen; for the country people, who, from their attachment to old cuſtoms, hate every thing new, have not the leaſt notion of its utility.

Years 1782, *&c.*—In the year 1782 and 1783, the people ſuffered a dreadful calamity. Through the badneſs of the ſeaſons, combined with damaged ſeed, the crops not only here, but in all theſe iſlands, failed ſo totally, that, had not the Government humanely interpoſed in their favour, ſeveral of our poor people would, in all probability, have periſhed with hunger. To ſave their lives till the ſupply from the Treaſury arrived, the kirk-ſeſſion exerted themſelves vigorouſly, by purchaſing for them peaſe, and other cheap food, from the ſouth country. Much about the ſame time, or ſoon after, the ſmall-pox were introduced here, after being for ſome length of time abſent; and, in order to overcome the averſion which ſome of the meaner ſort of people ſtill have to inoculation, the kirk-ſeſſion, on a motion made, agreed to bear the expence of inoculating the children of ſuch parents

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as could not afford to pay for that ſalutary operation. The ſcheme ſucceeded to their wiſh; for many who ſeemed averſe before, now, when they had an offer of having their children inoculated for nothing, applied. Above 30 poor children were, at the expence of the ſeſſion, inoculated in the ſpace of one or two weeks, and all of them ſoon recovered perfectly.

Diſadvantages, Advantages, and Manners.—The former of theſe are, it muſt be confeſſed, neither very few in number, nor yet very inconſiderable. Several inconveniencies, it is evident, muſt ariſe even from the remote and ſecluded ſituation of this place. This deprives the people of a free and frequent intercourſe with intelligent ſtrangers; to inſtruct them, by their converſation, in what is uſeful; and the example of more cultivated countries, to excite among them the ſpirit of improvement. To the ſame cauſe it is perhaps owing, that many of the lower claſs of the people are ſtill ſo ignorant as to be under the baneful influence of ſuperſtition. In many days of the year they will neither go to ſea in ſearch of fiſh, nor perform any ſort of work at home. In the time of ſickneſs or danger, they often make vows to this or the other favourite ſaint, at whoſe church or chapel in the place, they lodge a piece of money, as a reward for their protection; and they imagine, that if any perſon ſteals or carries off that money, he will inſtantly fall into the ſame danger from which they, by their pious offering, had been ſo lately delivered. On going to ſea, they would reckon themſelves in the moſt imminent danger, were they by accident to turn their boat in oppoſition to the ſun's courſe. They do not marry but in the waxing of the moon. They would think the meat ſpoiled, were they to kill the cattle when that luminary is waning; and they would conſider it as an unhappy omen, were they, by any means, diſappointed in getting themſelves married, or

their

their children baptiſed on the very day which they had previouſly fixed in their mind for that purpoſe. To theſe prejudices, ariſing from ignorance, there are ſtill connected ſeveral of the meaner kind of vices. If they are detected in telling a lie to promote their own intereſt, in over-reaching their acquaintance in making a bargain, or even in pilfering their property, they are not ſo much aſhamed as to argue a great degree of civilization. Murmuring at their own poor condition, complaining of, and wiſhing to conceal every thing they can call their own, and a conſtant endeavour to throw the thick veil of myſtery over every tranſaction they engage in, form the moſt prominent features of their characters. Of theſe foibles and vices, however, to which, it muſt be confeſſed, the meaneſt of the people are but too much addicted, no traces almoſt are to be met with among thoſe of better condition. The ladies here are as agreeable in their perſons, as they are poliſhed in their manners: They diſcover much good ſenſe, and equal virtue; and, when they are raiſed from their father's family to that of their huſband, they are no leſs remarkable for their faithful affection as wives, than they are for their parental attachment as mothers. Neither are the men of the ſame rank much inferior; for ſuch of them as are engaged in trade, are generally reputed fair in their dealings. Such as are bred for the navy, riſe to conſiderable rank; and thoſe gentlemen that live at home upon their eſtates, and that have been fortunate enough to obtain a liberal education in their youth, need not be afraid to bear a compariſon with thoſe of the ſame rank in other parts of the kingdom. To form the minds, and mark the characters of the inferior ranks of people here, the illicit trade which till lately has been carried on to no ſmall extent, has, without doubt, contributed very conſiderably. Formerly, the money they had, which indeed was but little, ran al-

moſt all of it in the channel of ſmuggling. This ſpecies of buſineſs, which has always been the diſgrace, and at laſt proved the ruin of almoſt every place where it has been practiſed to a great extent, enriched indeed a few merchants, who circulated their profits in the place. But it alſo contributed to introduce, among the farmers, failors, and even tradeſmen, a ſort of low cunning, to give them ſuch a taſte for drinking ſpirits, as not only hurts their health, but ſtints their growth, to draw off their attention from ſober, honeſt induſtry, to a kind of gambling for gain; and, what is worſt of all, to weaken in their hearts that ſacred regard for truth and fair dealing, which are the principal ingredients in every reſpectable character. Though this ſhameful trade be now much diſcouraged by ſome of the proprietors of land, who long ſaw with regret its pernicious tendency, and indeed almoſt ſuppreſſed by the vigorous exertions of the revenue officers; yet, though the cauſe be in a great meaſure removed, the effects, ſtill unhappily indeed, are viſible in Kirkwall.

The mode the farmers have of paying their rents has alſo a conſiderable degree of influence in forming their characters. They are generally but poor;—they have very ſhort leaſes; ſome of them are obliged to pay entry or graſſum at every removal; and as their tack-duties are for the moſt part paid in kind, they are anxious to conceal from their landlords, or as they are ſometimes ſtill called their maſters, what the lands produces. The feu-duties too, which on many eſtates are equal to the rents paid to the lairds, are all paid in kind; and as the crops frequently fail, this mode of payment becomes a very heavy burden, both on the tenants and proprietors. Very unlike the more favoured regions in the ſouth, where the ſpring comes in early with a genial warmth, our ſpring continues cold until the month of June and July, when

when the vegetation is very rapid, and both corn and graſs flouriſh much, till they are checked in the month of Auguſt, which too often blaſts the hopes of the huſbandman. About that ſeaſon the winds generally blow with ſuch fury from the weſt and ſouth-weſt, that the ſea by daſhing againſt the rocks, which on that ſide of the country are high, ſteep, and rugged, ſpreads a ſhower or ſpray of ſalt water over almoſt the whole iſlands. By means of this ſpray, the graſs which before looked green and healthy, and the fields of corn which had promiſed plenty for man and beaſt, in the ſpace of one night put on the garb of mourning, looking black as if they had been burnt, and are thenceforth almoſt good for nothing.

Many inconveniences the people are alſo liable to from the nature of their weights, which are peculiar to this place, and which were originally derived from Norway. The inſtruments they have for the purpoſe of weighing, are a kind of ſtaterae or ſteelyards;—they are two in number; and the one of them is called a pundlar, and the other a biſmar. On the firſt is weighed ſettings and miels, and on the laſt marks and liſpunds.—24 marks make 1 ſetting or 1 liſpund, and 6 ſettings make 1 miel, and the articles of oats, and bear, and meal, and malt, and butter, are moſt commonly weighed upon theſe inſtruments. So very uncertain are theſe weights, that no perſon can ſay what ſhould be the exact quantity contained in either of theſe denominations. The deacon of the weights for the time, has the important charge of making, and mending, and adjuſting theſe inſtruments, the ſmalleſt defect in which muſt, it is evident, render them very falſe; and even when they are as perfect as their nature will admit of, by a ſort of ſlight of hand trick perfectly eaſy, and perfectly well known to thoſe who weigh, great injuſtice may be done, without almoſt the poſſibility of detection. Many intelligent

telligent people here confidently aſſert, that theſe weights have increaſed much of late; and others as ſtrenuouſly contend, that they are the ſame now they were many years ago; but almoſt all except a few ignorant or intereſted men are agreed, that they are very fallacious. Though this be an evil of no inconſiderable magnitude, the people muſt it ſeems endure it; for no permanent and effectual remedy can be applied without the interpoſition of the legiſlature.

Before any reaſonable expectation of improving the condition of the people can be entertained, more juſt weights muſt be introduced; the leaſes of land, which are at preſent far too ſhort, muſt be lengthened double or treble at leaſt; all the tack and feu-duties muſt be converted into money; better ſeed muſt be ſown, and that changed annually; and the barbarous feudal cuſtoms of graſſums and ſervices totally aboliſhed. In order to have a number of ſpare hands for the purpoſe of manufactures and fiſheries, ſeveral of the farms, which are at preſent by much too ſmall, muſt be thrown into one; and were this circumſtance to be attended to, it would induce men of ſome ſtock or ſubſtance to rent them.

Even in the town the people labour under ſeveral inconveniences. All the intelligence of any importance which they have, muſt come from the ſouth, and it is often very ſlow in reaching them. This, indeed, happens partly from the boiſterous friths which the poſt muſt unavoidably croſs in his way to Kirkwall. But notwithſtanding this circumſtance, were the poſt to go out on Friday inſtead of Sunday; were he to *ride* through Caithneſs and Sutherland where he now *walks*; were he to come ſtraight from Wick to Houna, or ſhould he ſtill continue to come by Thurſo; were he to croſs the Pentland Frith from Scarfſcarry to Walls, in place of coming by South Ronaldſhay, they might have the return of a letter in one third leſs time than it now takes to come

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to them from Edinburgh. Were theſe changes brought about, and they certainly could be done with no great expence to government, the buſineſs of this place would reap from them evident advantages.

But this inconveniency of the want of quick and regular returns of the poſt, is trifling compared to thoſe the inhabitants ſuſtain from the want of regular markets. The Mainland is ſituated almoſt in the middle of the iſlands, which extend from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt upwards of 70 miles. Kirkwall ſtands near the center of the Mainland, or principal iſland, which ſtretches from north to ſouth, in ſome parts 7 or 8 miles, and from eaſt to weſt about 30. Thus ſituated in the heart of the whole country, which is abundantly fertile in all the ordinary kinds of proviſions, one would naturally imagine, the inhabitants could be in no want of any of the articles of living. But this is really not the caſe; for if we except beef, which can be purchaſed in the market from harveſt till ſome time in the end of winter, they are much at a loſs to procure any ſort of proviſions. If they wiſh to have beef, either in ſpring or ſummer, they are under the diſagreeable neceſſity of ſending to purchaſe it in different parts of the country. In the ſame way when they ſtand in need of malt or meal, of mutton, pork, poultry, or fiſh, as they cannot have them at home, they muſt ſend for them from the Mainland, or from the iſlands at a diſtance. Numerous are the hardſhips to which the want of markets expoſes the inhabitants of almoſt every deſcription. Men of landed property, indeed, feel theſe much leſs than others; for ſuch articles as they are in need of, and as the country produces, are furniſhed in abundance to their families from their eſtates by an agreement with their tenants. But ſuch as have no eſtates, and eſpecially poor tradeſmen and labourers, are often even with money in their pockets, at a loſs to ſubſiſt their

their families. In order to furniſh themſelves with the neceſſaries of life, they muſt watch the country people as they come into town occaſionally with the produce of their little farms for ſale; they muſt buy them at certain ſeaſons, many months before they are needed; or they muſt hire people at a conſiderable expence to go through the iſlands to purchaſe them. People thus employed, either on their own account, or on that of others, have been known in winter, when the weather is bad, and the ſeas ſtormy, to have been detained five or ſix weeks from their labour and their families. Theſe, and many other evils of a ſimilar nature, which ariſe from their having no regular markets, call aloud for a remedy, and ſhould certainly as ſoon as poſſible be liſtened to by thoſe whoſe duty it is to apply it. But the attachment to old eſtabliſhed cuſtoms which ſo generally prevails here, is the parent of many of the inconveniences the people labour under, and were this once weakened or deſtroyed, they might ſoon be in a better condition.

Flax might be raiſed here, as the ſoil is by no means unfit for it; and had the people once acquired ſkill ſufficient to ſow, to weed, and to water it, they might find a very uſeful employment in dreſſing it, when they are now almoſt idle during the winter. To ſpin it would employ a number of females—to weave it into cloth would give bread to weavers; and a manufacture thus carried on from a raw material reared at home, would ſoon introduce an alteration for the better into the people's circumſtances. Similar advantages might ariſe from a due attention to the wool, which is certainly of an excellent quality. Did the farmers take that care of their ſheep which their importance merits; did they employ ſkilful hands to ſort and to dreſs the fine ſoft wool which they bear; and were there people of knowledge in that particular buſineſs to manufacture it, the people of Orkney might, in a very

very ſhort time, have not only what was ſufficient for their own wear, but many thouſand yards of woollen ſtuffs, as has been ſaid was the caſe formerly, for exportation.

A brewery might alſo be erected here, in order to furniſh beer of various kinds for the inhabitants, and the ſhipping that occaſionally comes among them. They might have a diſtillery, with a view to ſuperſede the neceſſity of bringing Britiſh ſpirits from the ſouth. Hides, which makes ſuch a conſiderable article in the exports, might be tanned here; and as there are kelp and tallow, and butter and oil, which are ſaid to be the chief ingredients in ſoap, they might alſo have a ſoap manufactory. But neither theſe, nor any other kind of manufacture that requires fire will ever thrive here, or indeed any where in the north, until the duty on coals carried north of the Red-head be no longer ranked among the number of our taxes. This tax has undoubtedly diſgraced the book of rates, from which it ought inſtantly to be cancelled, and committed to oblivion; and the member who would introduce a bill into the Houſe of Commons, and carry it into a law for that effect, would deſerve well of his country. In almoſt every point of view, it is both unjuſt and impolitic; for it has an evident tendency to hurt trade, to hurt manufactures; it ſubjects thoſe that live at a diſtance from coal to a duty, from which they that reſide near the coal pit are exempted; and when it is collected with the utmoſt care, it makes but a very inconſiderable addition to the revenue.

The advantages which the inhabitants of this country might draw from manufactures are, except kelp, perhaps not ſuperior to what might be obtained from fiſheries. For this ſpecies of induſtry, the people here are admirably well ſituated. Lobſters of an excellent kind, and in very conſiderable numbers, have, for many years paſt, been caught here; and though

though the fiſhery be at preſent carried on by an opulent company, it is confined to the ſouth iſles, whereas, were it extended, as indeed it ſhould be through the whole, twice the number at leaſt might be annually carried to the London market. There are plenty of them to be found every where around the iſlands; and though they be ſold at the low price of a penny, or a penny farthing each, where they are caught, they are ſaid to bring into the country about 800 l. annually. A ſum equal to this might, perhaps, be received from the capture of herrings. That moſt excellent ſpecies of fiſh comes, it is well known, in ſeveral great ſhoals from the frozen ocean in the north, and one of theſe in its progreſs ſouth, hovers about the northern iſles, and the eaſt coaſt of Great Britain. Vaſt multitudes of them are taken on the coaſt of Shetland in the month of June; and in the end of July, and firſt of Auguſt, they frequently touch at Wick, and other places on the ſhores of Caithneſs and Sutherland. In the intermediate time and ſpace, they might certainly be got here in no ſmall quantity, for the bays of Orkney are, in the months of July and Auguſt, in ſome ſeaſons at leaſt, full of them. But the people here, are either ſo deſtitute of ſpare hands, from their preſent mode of agriculture, and from the number of people uſefully employed in burning kelp through the ſummer, or they are ſo void of enterprize, or perhaps of the means of this ſpecies of induſtry, that though this fiſhery has an appearance, that promiſes profits ſufficient to reward thoſe that would undertake it, there is ſcarcely at preſent a herring net in the whole country. No ſmall benefit, it is believed, might alſo be obtained from a cod fiſhing. Every where almoſt around this country cod are to be found, when the weather permits boats to get off to them, which indeed is but ſeldom the caſe, as the banks which they uſually haunt lie at a conſiderable

derable diſtance. The ſtations moſt fit for this fiſhing ſeem to be the town of Stromneſs, the iſlands of Stronſay and Sanday, of Weſtray and Walls, at the laſt of which, the little farmers on the ſhores of the Pentland Frith, in the times they could ſpare from their labour on land, have been known to catch 40,000 fine cod in the ſpace of only one ſeaſon. Before much can be made of it, however, ſkilful fiſhers by profeſſion muſt be procured, as well as boats conſtructed for the purpoſe, and little ſloops to cover them from the rage of the ſea, and the inclemency of the weather.

Beſides all this, the inhabitants of Orkney are invited by their circumſtances and ſituation to engage in the ſeal and whale fiſheries. An evident advantage they have in being nearer the fiſhing ground than others, their ſeamen are as good, and would ſerve for leſs wages, and their proviſions are ſtill much cheaper than they are elſewhere; and as the price of labour is not yet very high here, the ſpick or blubber might, to great emolument, be converted into oil in this country. In fine, were they to improve their agriculture in proportion to the goodneſs of the ſoil—were they to increaſe their manufactures, and raiſe raw materials for them at home, or even import them from abroad—and were they wiſely and vigorouſly to avail themſelves of the advantages of their ſituation for carrying on various ſorts of fiſheries, and both foreign and domeſtic commerce, the people, by means of that induſtry, the ſweets of which they would in that caſe taſte, would in a ſhort time become more numerous and more happy, and the Orkney iſlands, by no means inconſiderable either in point of extent or fertility, would emerge from obſcurity, and aſſume the character of a reſpectable province, and add not only to the ſtrength, but the ſplendour of the Britiſh empire.

NUMBER LII.

PARISH OF REAY.

(Counties of Caithneſs and Sutherland.—Preſbytery of Caithneſs.—Synod of Sutherland and Caithneſs.)

By the Reverend Mr DAVID MACKAY.

Situation and Extent.

THE greater part of the pariſh of Reay lies in the county of Caithneſs. A part, however, denominated Strathalladale, is in the county of Sutherland. It is computed to be about 17 miles in length, and 8 or 9 in breadth. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Thurſo and Halkirk, in Caithneſs; and of Kildonan and Far, in Sutherland. Its figure is very irregular.

Surface, Soil, and Air.—The general aſpect of the country is hilly through this pariſh; but a conſiderable track, bordering on the ſea, is level. In the Caithneſs diviſion, the ſoil is generally fertile. A great part of Strathalladale is ſhallow, barren, and fitter for paſture than for cultivation; yet, even there, the induſtry of the inhabitants, and the ſkilful uſe of manure, raiſe excellent crops. The air is dry and healthy. Colds, cough, fevers, conſumption, and rheumatiſm, are the moſt prevalent diſtempers. Rheumatiſm has been known here only within theſe laſt 40 years. The ſmall-pox, meaſles, and chincough, carry off numbers of children.

Fevers

Fevers often occaſion a conſiderable mortality. The dropſy ſometimes makes its appearance here; in which caſes it is ſuppoſed to be brought on by the exceſſive drinking of raw ſpirits.

Springs, Rivers, &c.—In this pariſh are ſeveral mineral ſprings, all ſeemingly chalybeate. The moſt remarkable of theſe iſſues at the foot of a rock at Craigtown, on the ſea ſhore. The river Halladale runs through the ſtrath of the ſame name. Torſs divides the pariſh of Reay from the pariſhes of Thurſo and Halkirk. Of the lakes, which are numerous, but ſmall, the principal is the Loch of Shuriry. The fiſhes caught in the rivers are ſalmon and trouts. The ſalmons in the river Halladale, weigh commonly from 14 to 20 pounds. The fiſhing of Halladale may be eſtimated at 50 or 60 barrels annually. The river Torſs yields from 12 to 18 barrels of ſalmon in the year. The larger ſalmons are eſtimated at 3 d. a pound; the ſmaller at 2 d. In the months of June and July, they are in their greateſt perfection. Loch Sleital, in Strathalladale, is remarkable for its large red trouts. The river of Halladale might be made navigable to boats for ſeveral miles.

Sea-coaſt, &c.—The extent of the ſea-coaſt is computed to be about 9 miles. It affords the two bays of Sandſide and Bighouſe; and the creeks of Portſkerry, which is ſuppoſed to be ſuſceptible of conſiderable improvement, and of which the ſituation is thought an eligible one for a fiſhing village. The moſt improvable, and beſt harbour in the pariſh, is the water mouth of Halladale, where ſmall decked veſſels can lie in great ſafety. The principal head-land is Freſgo-head, near Sandſide. Wrecks have been frequent upon the coaſt. A brigantine, laden with iron and hemp, was wrecked at the mouth

mouth of the bay in 1771; another, laden with logs, at Dunreay, in 1781. Two ſloops were wrecked in the ſame year; one in the Bay of Bighouſe, the other in the Bay of Sandſide. A brigantine, laden with ſalt, was loſt at Lybſter in 1788; and a herring buſs at Portſkerry in 1789.

Sea-fiſhes.—The fiſhes caught upon the coaſt are cod, ling, turbot, haddock, ſkate, whiting, dog fiſh, mackarel, horn-back, ſand-eels, and flounders. The beſt ſeaſon for the cod and ling is from the beginning of April to the beginning of July. They are taken with the hand line, the great line, and the ſmall line. Haddocks, the white of the cod's belly, ſand-eels, limpets, and crabs, are uſed for baits. A ſort of ſmall fiſh, of the ſize of trouts, named *ſillacks*, and ſuppoſed to be the fry of large fiſhes, are taken in great numbers among the rocks on the ſhore with a pock-net, having ſome broken crabs caſt into it for baits. The cods are commonly at 2 d. ling at 5 d. and ſkates at 3 d. each. The haddocks are in their greateſt perfection in December, and ſometimes large enough to bring 2 d. each. Seals abound on the coaſt; and it has been occaſionally viſited by whales, ſharks, and porpoiſes.

Sea-ware, Shells, &c.—The winter ſtorms frequently throw in broken pieces of ſponge; and, among theſe, now and then, whole ſponges ſpreading out in a buſh, from one ſtem. Enough of ſhell-ſand is thrown up on the ſhore, but very few entire ſhells. At flood-mark, indeed, the ſhell of the ſea-urchin often appears. The ſea-ware, uſed as manure, is thrown by ſtorms in great heaps into the bays and creeks, and is a mixture of tangle, and other common ſea-weeds. At Portſkerry, and round the Bays of Bighouſe and Sandſide, about 20 tons of kelp might be annually made. The tide

flows

flows from weſt to eaſt, from the Atlantic Ocean down the Pentland Frith.

Mountains, Caves, &c.—Of Binra, the only conſiderable mountain in the pariſh, the ſteepeſt ſide is computed to be a large mile from top to bottom. There is abundance of limeſtone, moorſtone, and granite. Four quarries of freeſtone have been opened; one in the hill above Bighouſe; another in the hill above Sandſide; and one upon each ſide of Sandſide Bay. Blocks of ſtone for millſtones are found in different parts of the hills. Marl has been found in Braabin and Dunreay. A ſlender vein of lead-ore was lately diſcovered near Reay, but in circumſtances that afforded no encouragement to work it. Iron-ore is found in different places through the pariſh. There is, in this pariſh, a cave, which, when a ſtone is caſt into it, emits a hollow, echoing ſound, of which the name given it by the country people (*glungang*) is imitative. In Binra, too, is a natural cave, into which cattle retire for ſhelter from ſtorms. The entrance is formed by two natural ſtone-pillars, inclining towards each other. In the top is an aperture. This cave was once the reſort of a gang of robbers. The ſhore at Borrowſton preſents a number of ſmall caves, and a ſtrong natural arch, covered with green turf, in a level with the adjacent ground, and leading over a chaſm, about 40 feet deep, into which the tide flows.

Quadrupeds and Fowls.—The quadrupeds are, black cattle, ſheep, goats, ſwine, dogs, cats, hares, rabbits, otters, foxes, badgers, rats, mice, moles, weaſels, and wild cats. The rat is not to be ſeen in Strathalladale, nor in any other part of Sutherland. The birds are, eagles, hawks, ſwans, ducks, wild geeſe, ſea pies, ſea plovers, ſcale ducks, herns, cormorants, marrots or auks, kings fiſhers, rain geeſe, muir fowls, plovers,

plovers, partridges, lapwings, ſnipes, tame ducks, plover pages, tillings, linnets, thruſhes, hill ſparrows, common ſparrows, wrens, buntings, larks, ſwallows, yellow hammers, water-wagtails, titmice, jackdaws, jackbits, ravens, woodlarks, whimbrels, ſtarlings, curlews, redbreaſts, cuckows, night rails, pigeons, ſnow-fowls, rooks; and, in the higher parts of the pariſh, woodcocks, blackcocks, and heath-hens, are ſometimes ſeen. Of theſe, the ſwan, wild-gooſe, ſea-duck, marrot, night rail, redbreaſt, cuckow, woodcock, and ſnow-fowl, are migratory.

Population.—The return made to Dr Webſter of the number of the inhabitants of this pariſh was 2262 ſouls. The preſent amount of the population is 2298. The males are 1128; the females 1170. The annual average of births in this pariſh is 75: The deaths, as nearly as can be aſcertained, are 36. The number of ſouls, under 10 years of age, are 602;—from 10 to 20, 484;—from 20 to 50, 943;—from 50 to 70, 258;—from 70 to 100, 11. The heritors are 8; and, of theſe, 2 reſide in the pariſh. The farmers, with their families, are 328. The handicraftſmen are, 20 ſhoemakers, 18 weavers, 11 taylors, 4 wrights, 1 maſon, and 5 ſmiths. Here are 9 diſtillers of whiſky. The apprentices are 5. The houſehold ſervants, male and female, 35. The labouring ſervants, male and female, 249. 39 of the preſent inhabitants of this pariſh are incomers, not born in it; and, of theſe, 3 were born in England; the remaining 36 in different parts of Scotland. All the inhabitants are of the communion of the eſtabliſhed Church, except one Seceder. Two perſons were baniſhed from this pariſh in 1772. In 1773, ſeveral families emigrated to North America. Some poor people, and one or two reduced families, went from this pariſh to the cotton mills in Lanark and Stanley in 1788. The proportion

proportion of marriageable bachelors to the married men is as 1 to 7325. Within theſe few years, about 20 cottages have been ſuffered to fall into ruins, and two good farm houſes have been built.

Produce, &c.—Bear, black oats, and white oats, are the uſual crops. Wheat and peaſe have been tried with no great ſucceſs. The gardens afford the common pot-herbs and flowers. There are, indeed, few trees—only ſome birches on the heights of Strathalladale; nor any fruits, except apples and pears. By ancient calculation, the pariſh contains 271 penny lands of arable ground, at 8 acres to each penny land. The paſture ground, unfit for agriculture, is very extenſive; nor has its meaſurement ever been aſcertained. The number of black cattle in this pariſh may be at a moderate computation 3441—The ſheep 3110—The horſes 982. Abundance of all proviſions neceſſary for the uſe of the inhabitants, is produced in the pariſh. The exports are in general bear, oatmeal, beef, mutton, pork, geeſe, hens, butter, cheeſe, tallow, malt, whiſkey, to the market of Thurſo;—black cattle, ſold to drovers from the ſouth;—horſe colts, ſent to Orkney;—lambs, to the lowlands;—geeſe, ſometimes to Sutherland and Roſs;—as alſo hides, ſkins, gooſe-quills, and other feathers. Flax is an article of crop which has lately been introduced. Graſs-ſeeds have been ſown upon about 50 acres of the arable ground. Oats are ſown commonly in April—bear in the end of May; and are reaped in September and October. The lands of this pariſh are in general uninclоſed. The farms conſiſt commonly of what is called a penny land—Many farmers poſſeſs only the half of a penny land. The principal farmers pay from 20 l. to 60 l. Sterling of yearly rent; and the rate of the penny land is from 5 l. to 8 l. There are in this pariſh 181 ploughs, and

92 carts. In the Caithneſs diſtrict are 10 water-mills, and in the diviſion of the pariſh belonging to Sutherland 4. In each diſtrict too, there is alſo a *highland-mill*, having but one horizontal wheel immediately under the mill-ſtones.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—The preſent prices of proviſions are for beef, mutton, and pork, from 2 d. to 3 d. a pound—geeſe, 1 s. each—hens, 5 d.—chickens, 1½ d.—butter and tallow, from 8 s. to 10 s. a ſtone—cheeſe, 4 s. a ſtone—bear and oatmeal, from 10 s. to 12 s. a boll—oats, 5 s. a boll—wool is ſold at 14 s. a ſtone.—Day-labourers in huſbandry receive, men 6 d. with victuals—women 4 d. with victuals—without victuals, the former 8 d.—the latter 6 d.—Carpenters, maſons, and ſlaters, are paid from 1 s. to 2 s. a-day.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was built in 1739. The ſtipend is 4 chalders of grain, 500 merks Scots in money, with 60 l. Scots for communion elements. The patronage is with the Crown. The glebe lies at a mile's diſtance from the manſe, and when let yields only 21. 10 s. of yearly rent; a ſmall part, indeed, contiguous to the manſe, may be worth 1 l. more of rent.—The parochial ſchool of this pariſh has a ſalary of 200 merks Scots, obtained by a decreet of the Court of Seſſion in November 1773, at the expence of the General Aſſembly. The ſchoolmaſter poſſeſſes alſo an acre of ground, for which he teaches two children. In ſummer and in winter about 50 ſcholars attend the ſchool; in ſpring and harveſt when people are commonly obliged to employ ſuch of their children as are fit for labour, the number falls to about 20. Salary and perquiſites, if regular payments were made by the ſcholars, would together make the ſchoolmaſter's ſalary amount to 24 l. a-year.—The poor receiving

alms

alms are about 50. The contributions for their ſupport are between 5 l. and 6 l. yearly.

Manners.—The people of this pariſh are on the whole induſtrious and economical, although, perhaps, rather too much addicted to the drinking of ſpiritous liquors. They are very hoſpitable. They are in general poor. It muſt be confeſſed, too, that all the attention of the well diſpoſed can hardly reſtrain the lower claſſes from pilfering in caſes of ſhipwreck. To what has been ſaid above of the rate of wages, it may here be added, that married labourers living with their families, receive 6 bolls of meal for board, and from 2 l. to 3 l. of wages in the year, with ſhoes. They ſometimes have beſides this a piece of ground for raiſing potatoes, with graſing and winter fodder for a cow. Servants living in their maſter's houſe receive the ſame wages as the others, without the allowance for board.—1 l. with ſhoes, is the year's wages for a female ſervant. Recruiting parties in Thurſo have frequently picked up young men of this pariſh for the army. Reay furniſhed the greater part of two companies of Fencibles during the American war.

Services exacted from the Tenants.—There are perſonal ſervices performed by tenants and under tenants with their labouring cattle, in the pariſh of Reay for time immemorial; but are aboliſhed in ſome parts of the pariſh, being converted to money rent. On ſome eſtates and tacks they are limited; on others unlimited or diſcretionary on the maſter's part. The unlimited ſervices are carried to a great extent; and, it is to be regretted, that a long cuſtom, with other circumſtances, has rendered that thraldom leſs odious to thoſe, who in other reſpects are of benevolent tender feelings, and an obliging diſpoſition. In ſuch caſes, though the tenants or

under tenants make a ſhift to perform the ſervices demanded, they would find it impoſſible to pay an equivalent in money were they converted. The limited ſervices are not eſtabliſhed by a general rule, and therefore vary on different eſtates and tacks. A tenant of a penny-land on one eſtate performs three days in ſpring with his cattle, five days ſhearing and leading with horſes every leading day, and mealing 16 bolls oats. A tenant of a penny-land on another eſtate, is bound to perform 24 days in ſpring with labouring cattle, 12 days in harveſt, and leading every leading day, and mealing 20 bolls of oats. Cottagers who poſſeſs little more than one-eighth part of a penny-land, perform ſervices three days every week in ſpring and harveſt, and one in the week during ſummer and winter. The tenants or under tenants are obliged to perform theſe ſervices every day their maſter is pleaſed to call them, perhaps from 20 to 120 days in the year. The nature of theſe ſervices is plowing and manuring with their own cattle—weeding growing corn—cutting, leading with their own cattle, and building corn—mealing corn—cutting, curing, and leading hay—carrying victual to a ſea-port, in ordinary to Thurſo, from 6 to 8 computed miles diſtance, or to any diſtiller in the country—cutting, curing, and leading peats, which is done by the piece, and running expreſſes, but not frequently. If a well eſteemed maſter falls behind in his ſpring or harveſt work, his tenants lend him their help voluntarily, beyond their limited ſervices when in their power. Services are ſtill performed, (though moderately) where they have been converted many years ago, notwithſtanding the converſion money is ſtill paid as a part of the rent. Hence it appears, that nothing but a prohibitory law can aboliſh this practice. As the tenants and under tenants are generally in ſtraitened circumſtances, it would be difficult to deviſe a method of aboliſhing ſervices, without

conſiderable

conſiderable ſacrifices being made by ſuperiors. But were the tenants by a little relaxation brought to eaſier circumſtances, and their own labour under proper management, applied to the improvement of their farms, there is little doubt but the conſequence would be advantageous to the landlords, and ready payments made more effectual.

Public Houſes.—Little ale is drunk in the pariſh excepting in private houſes. There are three inns or public houſes wherein whiſkey is retailed, and travellers are accommodated, but not very comfortably for the better ſort. The hoſpitality of the pariſh ſupplies the public inſtead of elegant inns.

Language.—The Gaelic or Erſe language is chiefly ſpoken through this pariſh. Many indeed now ſpeak both Gaelic and Engliſh. The names of places are moſtly of Gaelic derivation. Some ending in *ſter*, as Shebſter, Brubſter, &c. are ſuppoſed to be of Daniſh origin. Reay, the name of the pariſh, is thought to be a corruption from Urray, the name of a Pickiſh hero who inhabited the caſtle, to this day called *Knock Urray*.

NUMBER LIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF AITHSTING AND SANSTING.

(Sheriffdom of Orkney and Zetland.—Preſbytery of Zetland.)

By the Reverend Mr PATRICK BARCLAY.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh is ſituated in the middle of the main land of Zetland. It is bounded on the north by the pariſh of Delting, from which it is ſeparated by a large inlet of the ſea called *Swarback's Minn*, and which forms many fine bays and harbours in Delting and Aithſting. On the ſouth, it is waſhed by the ocean. It is, in moſt places, 9 miles long, and 6 miles broad. A very inconſiderable part of it is under cultivation, and no exact meaſurement has ever been taken of it. There are 801 merks land in the pariſh; but the extent of a merk land is very indefinite. Some farms, which are rentalled for 6 merks, are of more extent, and worth more rent, than others that are rentalled for 10 or 12 merks. Theſe merks are valued by ſixpenny, ninepenny, and twelvepenny land. Sixpenny land pays to the proprietor 8 merks butter, and 12 s. Scotch, *per* merk. Ninepenny land pays 12 merks butter, and 1 l. Scotch; and twelvepenny land pays 16 merks butter, and 1 l. 4 s. Scotch. [*N. B.* The lands are reckoned by merks, and the butter is weighed by merks and liſpunds.]

liſpunds.] The merk is equal to $1\frac{1}{4}$ Amſterdam pound. 24 merks equal to a liſpund, or 30 merks Amſterdam. The butter rent has never been raiſed above this rule in any part of this pariſh; but the price has been raiſed from 5 s. to 10 s. *per* liſpund; and the money rent has, in ſome places, been quadrupled. There are alſo many *ontjeth*, *i. e.* ſmall parcels of ground lately incloſed from the common, and ſet to a tenant for money rent only.

Appearance and Climate.—The appearance of the pariſh is rather hilly, but none of the hills are of any remarkable height when compared with thoſe in the neighbouring pariſhes. The cultivated ground is generally at the foot of the hills, and on the ſea-ſhore, and there is not a houſe in the pariſh half a mile diſtant from the ſea. On the weſt ſide of the pariſh the hills are generally green on a moſſy ſoil, and affording little paſture for ſheep or horſes in winter. On the north the hills are dry and rocky, with ſmall long heather, and fine ſweet graſs. In the middle of the pariſh the hills are deep moſs, and afford plenty of coarſe graſs called Lubba, and ſhort buſhy heather. The pariſh is every where interſected by long narrow bays called here Voes, or Friths. The paſture on the ſide of the Voe and in the Neſs, or peninſula formed by two Voes, is generally good, and great plenty of ſea-weed or tang to be found on the ſhores. There can be no river in the pariſh—ſome ſmall burns or rivulets, which afford excellent trout, and the ſea-trout come into the burns to ſpawn, and are often caught in nets in Auguſt and September. There are upwards of 40 freſh water lakes in the pariſh; many of them might be drained at a ſmall expence, and would greatly improve the paſture, or might be incloſed for meadows, as the bottom is moſtly green or muddy. There are two inhabited iſlands, containing one family each,

each, who take care of the proprietor's ſheep flocks, and 7 ſmall iſlands or holms, in which the proprietor feeds ſheep and cattle. The ſmall part of the pariſh which is bounded by the ocean, is a very high and rocky ſhore, and ſome curious caves formed by the weſtern ocean, much frequented by ſeals, wild pigeons, ſea-fowls, &c.—There is no wood in the pariſh but in a gentleman's garden, although there is pretty good evidence, and an imperfect tradition, that the pariſh was once overrun with wood.—The air is moiſt and foggy, but not unhealthy—The heat or cold never diſagreeable.—The moſt prevalent diſtempers here ſeem to be complaints on the liver; and are ſaid to be occaſioned by the violent exertions the men are often forced to make at ſea, and the ſudden tranſitions from heat to cold, to which they are frequently expoſed. Cramps and rheumatiſms alſo very common. The epilepſy, to which the women in the northern pariſhes are very liable, has not been ſeen here theſe many years. The people are not ſo healthy now as formerly, owing to the great alteration in the mode of living. The general uſe of tea, though but lately introduced, has made a very rapid progreſs. The pooreſt family in the pariſh will not now diſpenſe with it, and will ſell their clothes, yea their meal, to purchaſe it. They uſe a very coarſe kind of black tea, drink it very ſtrong, and often without milk or ſugar: The latter hardly ever uſed. The immoderate uſe of ſpirituous liquors alſo materially hurts the conſtitution, as well as ruins the circumſtances of many. Several of the laſt generation lived to a great age. One man died, within theſe 12 years, aged 107; and one woman, this year, of 95; but there is now only one man above 80 in the whole pariſh.

Rent.—There are 17 heritors in the pariſh. Seven of the ſmalleſt reſide in it. There has never been any valuation of the

the lands. The rent paid to the landlords is 326 liſpund, 19 merk butter, and 1713 l. 16 s. Scotch. Converting the butter at 3 l. Scotch *per* liſpund, it is in all 2693 l. 16 s. Scotch, or 224 l. 9 s. 8 d. Sterling; but the butter rent is now charged by the heritors at 8 s. and ſometimes at 10 s. *per* liſpund. After all, this is but a nominal rent; for each tenant receives his poſſeſſion from the landlord, on condition of putting out the ſixth ſhare of a boat to the long fiſhing, and delivering the wet fiſh to him or his tackſman at 3 s. 6 d. Sterling *per* quintal or cwt. and his oil at 10 d. or 1 s. *per* cann; ſo that the real rent of the pariſh depends on the profits the landlords make of the fiſh and oil, and is only known to themſelves *. Great part of the pariſh was lately ſet to a tackſman, who paid above double rent for it; and, as the fiſhings proved remarkably good during his tack, he made conſiderable profits. The poultry (one for each merk land) is included in the rent, as ſtated above. They pay alſo three days work from each family, when required; and, when not paid in kendars, converted at 6 d. *per* day. They are always maintained by the landlord; and their meat very often exceeds the value of their work. The pariſh alſo pays to Sir Thomas Dundas, the ſuperior, for ſcatt, wattle, and oxpenny, 110½ canns oil, and 30 liſpund, 6 merk butter, and 140 l. 3 s. Scotch money; in all, 297 l. 6 s. Scotch, or 24 l. 15 s. 6 d. Sterling. This was evidently the land-tax paid to the King of Norway or Denmark before theſe iſlands were annexed to the crown of Scotland, and has been, perhaps very unjuſtly, continued on the tenants in Zetland, who, as they pay ceſs or land-tax to Britain beſides, amounting generally to 5 d. or 6 d. *per* merk, may be ſaid to pay double ceſs every year. They pay alſo corn teind, 8 d. or 10 d. *per* merk land; one half of which to the ſuperior, as biſhop's rent, and

* Vide pariſh of Dunroſſneſs.

and one half to the miniſter. They pay alſo vicarage teinds for cows, ſheep, and boats. The total payments from the pariſh in a year, excluſive of ceſs and day's works, is 3742 l. 7$\frac{4}{5}$ d. Scotch, or 311 l. 16 d. 9 d. Sterling, converting the butter as above.

It is very probable that all the lands in Shetland were allodial or udal. The proprietor had no right to ſhow but uninterrupted ſucceſſion. But, as theſe udallers divided their lands among all their children, (the ſon got two merks, and the daughter one; hence *the ſiſter part*, a common proverb in Shetland to this day), the poſſeſſions ſoon became trifling, and were ſwallowed up by great men, generally ſtrangers, many of whom acquired eſtates in a very ſhort time. None of theſe udallers remain in this pariſh, and great part of the lands are now feued from the ſuperior. The ſuperiors formerly had many ways of procuring property in Shetland. Patrick Earl of Orkney, in a diſpoſition of the lands of Sand to Jerom Umphray, narrates, that he had evicted 7 merks of that land from Powl Nicholſon in Cullſwick, for *ſtealing a ſwine*, and that he had evicted 6 merks from ——— in Cullſwick, for ſtealing bolts from his Lordſhip's trood, probably ſome piece of wreck which had been drawn into Cullſwick. In that ſame diſpoſition, the Earl grants receipt for the money from Jerom Umphray, at the rate of 17 l. 16 s Scotch *per* merk land, "being full land's price at the "time." In 1789, three merk land in Fogragarth ſold for 100 l. Sterling, and 40 ſheep; and one of the merks is only feued.

Agriculture.—Very little can be ſaid for the method of cultivation: It is, at beſt, ſlovenly, and often prepoſterous. The ſoil is in a few places ſandy; in ſome, it is clay; but, in general, it is deep black moſs. Every farm is incloſed or divided

divided from the common paſture by a turf or ſtone dyke; but, in what is called a *farm* or *town*, there are perhaps 12 or 14 tenants, whoſe lands lie *pro indiviſo*, and often runrig, which effectually prevents ſmaller incloſures, and is, in many other ways, inconvenient for the tenant. In ſome farms of 30 or 40 merk land, there are often 4 heritors. As the poſſeſſions are by far too ſmall, the land is too frequently laboured.

There are 14 ploughs in the pariſh, 4 oxen in each, who go a-breaſt. A large yoke is laid on the neck of the two outermoſt, and a ſmall yoke on the innermoſt oxen. Theſe yokes are joined by a double rope, to the middle of which is fixed the draught or chain, which is from 24 to 18 feet long, from the neck of the oxen to the noſe of the plough. The plough is of a very ſingular conſtruction. A crooked piece of wood, bent (naturally) almoſt to a right angle, forms the beam; to which is fixed a piece of oak ſtave, about 7 feet long, which muſt be very pliable, and yield to the preſſure of the driver's hand, when he would deepen his fur. The coulter ſtands almoſt even up and down, and is always too ſhort. A ſquare hole is cut through the lower end of the beam, and the *mercal*, a piece of oak about 22 inches long, introduced, which, at the other end, holds the ſock and ſky. The furrow is made deep or ſhallow, by driving a wedge below or above the mercal, on the outſide of the beam. There is a ſtilt on the top of the plough; and the man who holds it, walks on the white land at the ſide of it. This ſlender machine is liable to many accidents. A ſtone in the land, or even a ſtiff furrow, often breaks it in pieces, and the labour is much retarded: It turns the furrow almoſt quite round about; and people are employed to cut and ſmooth it with ſpades, before the ſeed is ſown. The outfields generally lie ley one year, and are ſown next April with

black oats. After the ſeed is ſown, the dung is laid about it, and both are very ſlightly harrowed. By this means, a tolerable crop is generally procured, but the ſoil is never meliorated. Prejudice and obſtinacy prevent their adopting other methods, which have, on experience, been found to anſwer better, ſuch as allowing the lands to lie two or three years ley, then take two crops, always turning down the dung, by which means dry outfield may ſoon be meliorated, and converted into infield. Some outfields or outbreaks cannot admit of this, being 5 or 6 feet deep, and only give a crop while the ſurface is rotting.

Infield is generally laboured to bear or potatoes. The bear land is always dunged, and the dung ploughed, or turned down. Sometimes a crop of infield oats is taken, but very ſeldom in this pariſh. There are ſome infield grounds which are well known to have produced bear for theſe 40 years, without ever lying ley, or being ſown with oats. Theſe lands get a great deal of dung every year; and, in rainy ſeaſons, the crop is always laid to the ground. The manure for infield is cow-dung, kept in the byre until ſeed-time, and frequently mixed with aſhes and light moſſy earth, which is gathered in ſummer, and kept in ſtorehouſes for that purpoſe. The dung is carried out in winter on the outfields, and made up in ſmall dunghills, mixed with earth and ſea-ware. As the farms are generally too ſmall for keeping ploughs, by far the greateſt part of the pariſh is digged with a curious light ſpade, made for that purpoſe. The dung is carried on people's backs, though ſometimes horſes are employed to carry it in creels. There are only two carts in the pariſh. One of them has put out as much in a day as nine people would have carried on their backs. No man in this pariſh will ſow oats before the 17th April, by which means the beſt ſeaſon is often loſt. Harveſt generally begins in

September

September.—No eſtimation can be made of the quantity or value of each ſpecies of crop, as every man has his own water-mill or hand-quearn, and grinds his own crop; but, in good ſeaſons, the crop in this pariſh would always maintain the inhabitants, with the help of milk and fiſh, and potatoes and cabbage. The two latter grow in great abundance.

Wages.—Men-ſervants get from 15 l. to 8 l. Scotch, for three-fourths of the year. In ſummer, they are all employed in the ling fiſhing, and the boys on beaches. The men get from 12 l. to 24 l. Scotch; boys from 6 l. to 10 l. Women-ſervants get from 12 l. to 8 l. ſometimes cheaper, when they get their "*hands to themſelves;*" that is, liberty to ſpin and knit ſtockings, for their own behoof and emolument, at leiſure hours. The yarn is generally ſpun at night, when they would be otherwiſe idle; and, when carrying dung, or travelling on the road, they are always knitting. Their ſervice to the maſter is often very inconſiderable; and they would not get meat for their work in any other place. Artificers are ſeldom paid by the day, and are always maintained by the employer. A maſon has from 10 d. to 14 d. a day; his ſervants 6 d.; wright, 10 d.; taylor, ſhoemaker, and boat-builder, paid by the piece, and generally earn 8 d. or 10 d.

Proviſions.—A fat ox, weighing from 3 to 4 cwt. ſells at 3 l. Sterling; a cow, 2 l.; ſheep, 3 s.; lamb, from 10 d. to 15 d.; calf, 1 s. 2 d.; ſwine, 2 s. or 3 s.; pigs, 6 d.; gooſe, 8 d.; hens, 4 d.; chicken, 2 d.; butter, from 5 s. to 8 s. or 9 s. *per* liſpund; potatoes, 6 d.; cabbage, never ſold; ditto plants, from 3 d. to 12 d. *per* hundred. When meal is ſold in the pariſh, it is from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. for oats, and 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. for bear-meal, *per* liſpund; ſeed oats, 1 s. 3 d.; bear, 1 s. 8 d.

Manufactures.

Manufactures and Fiſhing.—The pariſh produces a great quantity of wool, which ſells from 10 d. to 15 d. *per* liſpund. Very little good uſe is made of it in the pariſh. A few coarſe cloths are manufactured for common uſe; and all the ſtockings, nightcaps, mitts, &c. uſed in the pariſh. The remainder is commonly deſtroyed in coarſe ſtockings, which can hardly bring the original value of the wool. They are generally bartered in Lerwick for tea, ſnuff, tobacco, linen, lawns, cottons, &c. and ſeldom bring above 2½ d. real value, though they are nominally allowed 5 d.; for neither meal nor ready money can be obtained for ſtockings. It muſt, however, be acknowledged, that the manufacturers are much to blame for the low price of ſtockings, as they are generally of an extreme bad quality. A conſiderable quantity of kelp is made in this pariſh, perhaps from 40 to 50 tons in a year. The ſhores are generally let to a farmer, who makes the kelp at his own expence, and receives from the landlord 40 s. *per* ton. He employs women or boys at 7 s. 6 d. *per* month, or 2 d. a tide. This manufacture is but lately introduced, and is of very eſſential ſervice, as many people earn ſomething at it, who never had or could have earned a penny in any other way.

The people, in general, have a turn for handicrafts; but, as they have no opportunity to learn, and but very little ſteadineſs in themſelves, they ſeldom come to perfection in any trade. Every man almoſt tans his own leather, (often with the tormentile root), makes his own ſhoes, coarſe cloths, &c. There is no convenient fiſhing ſtation in this pariſh, nor any beaches fit for drying the fiſh. The ſmall part of it which has immediate acceſs to the ocean, is a bold rocky ſhore. The ling and cod fiſhing is, however, carried on with great vigour by the inhabitants, who are not inferior in ſkill and activity to any of their neighbours. In the month of

June,

June, almoſt every man in the pariſh leaves his home, and goes to the proper fiſhing ſtations in the neighbouring pariſhes of Walls and Northmavine. The expence of this fiſhing, and the mode of carrying it on, will be deſcribed by the miniſters of theſe pariſhes. There are about 36 ſix-oared boats, for this fiſhing, belonging to the pariſh; and many young men are hired by fiſhers in Northmavine. A few ling and cod are caught at the ſouth end of the pariſh, and ſell, ling 6d. cod 2 d. Plenty of haddocks and whitings ſell 1 d. *per* dozen. Pollocks, or young ſeath, caught in ſummer, and ſell for 1 d. *per* ſcore. Sillocks ſet in, in great quantities, to the bays or voes in winter; but, as every man is now at home, and can fiſh for himſelf, theſe are ſeldom ſold. Herrings, caught in the bays in autumn, ſell for 1 d. *per* ſcore, or 3 s. *per* mett, nearly a barrel of freſh ungutted herrings. No tide-ways in this pariſh. The only exports ſent directly by ſea are kelp, herrings, butter, and a very ſmall quantity of oil. Black cattle, horſes, and ſtockings, are generally ſold to the Lerwick merchants. No town or village. No inns; perhaps 30 or 40 gin and tea ſhops, to the great ruin of the morals, health, and circumſtances of the inhabitants. The landlords could eaſily prevent this trade; and it would be much for their advantage to do ſo, as ſeveral of the tenants ſpend more in theſe ſhops than they give to the landlord in a year; and ſome ſpend all they are worth, ſo the landlord gets nothing; yet this trade is carried on by his own tenants, (who have no tacks, and might therefore be ſoon removed.)

No road in the pariſh; and, in many places, it is not poſſible to make them, the hills are ſo rugged, and the moſs ſo deep. Great plenty of fine bays and harbours, which are of little conſequence here, as a ſhip has hardly been ſeen in ſome of them within the memory of man. On the north, the bay of Aith, and voe of Burra Frith, afford very fine anchorage

anchorage for many miles. The entrance is from St Magnus Bay, through Swarback Minn Clouſta Voe, where veſſels would be ſafe in all weathers, and could lie alongſide of the rock, in 20 feet water. Voe of Unrufrith, great quantities of kelp made and ſhipped in the two laſt;—Snarraneſs, where herrings are often caught and loaded. Gruten Voe, and Ollas Voe, on the weſt, very fine large bays, ſheltered from all ſea and winds. The entrance is through the ſouth end of Vaila Sound, a much frequented harbour in the pariſh of Walls. On the ſouth, are Skeldavoe, Selivoe, and Treſtavoe, all of them fine harbours, but very little frequented. The entrance is from the ocean. As the pariſh is every where interſected by long voes, the traveller has often occaſion to croſs ferries. There are, however, no ſtated ferry-boats; but the people are very ready to aſſiſt and forward their neighbours, often for nothing, and at beſt for a very ſmall hire. There is no ſhip or veſſel belonging to the pariſh.

Church and Poor.—The church was built in 1780, and got a new roof in 1789. The manſe was built in 1770, and was repaired in 1788. The ſtipend is let to a tackſman for 60 l. Sterling, excluſive of an augmentation of 111 l. 19 s. lately obtained. Hugh Sutherland was miniſter here in the beginning of laſt century; was ſucceeded by James Strachan, who was drowned in 1691, croſſing a ſmall ferry in the pariſh. His ſucceſſor, Cornelius Barron, was very unjuſtly, as is ſaid, depoſed by a committee of the General Aſſembly, ſent here in the beginning of this century, to inquire into the ſtate of the church, and ſee if the miniſters had conformed to Preſbyterianiſm. Mr Barron had conformed; but they ſought after, and pretended to find other cauſes for ſetting him aſide. It will perhaps hardly be believed now a-days, that bodily

bodily infirmity, and affliction from the hand of providence, were his greateſt crimes.

The number of poor on the roll are 10, 8 women and 2 men, all of them aged and infirm. Each of them has a particular diſtrict in the pariſh to which they are confined, and every houſeholder keeps them one night for every merk land he labours. They get clothes and ſhoes from the ſeſſion annually, and the expence of their funerals is paid from the poor's funds. There are therefore no travelling beggars of this pariſh. Many poor families alſo require aſſiſtance to buy ſeed corn, or purchaſe meal, cattle, &c. The frequent misfortunes at the fiſhing, greatly increaſe the number of widows and orphans, who muſt receive occaſional ſupply. The only fund for the ſupport of the poor is the Sunday collections, which amount to about 7 l. *per annum*, and a few fines impoſed by the ſeſſion for miſdemeanours. In 1784 and 1785, the whole money in the ſeſſions hands was exhauſted, excepting 10 l. Sterling, which had been lent, and could not be recovered at that time. It has been ſince repaid; and the funds now amount to 17 l. Sterling. So great was the poverty and diſtreſs of the people in general at that time, that many would have periſhed for want, but for the charitable contributions of well diſpoſed perſons in England and Scotland, and a large ſupply ſent from government.

Population.—In 1733 there were 987 ſouls. In Dr Webſter's liſt, in 1755, 911; in 1775, 1223; and January 1792, 1285.

Amount

Amount of Population in Sandſting and Aithſting, Jan. 1. 1792, 1285, *of which* 630 *are Men, and* 655 *Women.*

Men above	80	1		Women above	90	4
—— ——	70	11		—— ——	80	7
—— ——	60	46		—— ——	70	15
—— ——	40	92		—— ——	60	54
—— ——	30	64		—— ——	40	109
—— ——	20	100		—— ——	30	76
—— ——	10	131		—— ——	20	143
—— below	10	175		—— ——	10	103
		630		—— below	10	144
						655
				Men,		630
				In all,		1285

	Boys.	*Girls.*
Average of births for 10 years, from 1734, is,	$11\frac{2}{5}$	$9\frac{3}{10}$
Ditto for laſt 10 years, - - -	$14\frac{4}{5}$	$11\frac{3}{5}$
Average of marriages for 10 years, from 1734, is		$5\frac{6}{10}$
Ditto for the laſt 10 years, is - - - -		13

N. B. From December 1739, to December 1740, there was no marriage in the pariſh.

There are 46 widows, 14 widowers, and 12 batchelors who have houſe and land; but moſt of theſe are young men ſtaying with their mothers on their father's tacks. There is no exact regiſter of deaths, as there are four burial places in the pariſh, and no ſtated grave-digger; but as far as can be made out, the average of 10 years preceding 1791, is 9; but laſt year there died 47, 30 of which in the ſmall-pox. There have been 16 twins born in the pariſh within theſe 10 years, 8 of which by two ſiſters.

The

The increaſe of the people is owing to the number of outſets, and ſplitting of tacks, by which means the number and poverty of the people are much increaſed. There is one farm now poſſeſſed by 7 tenants, and 3 outſets, which, in 1742, had only 2 tenants;—many others, where the number of families is tripled. Formerly, the landlords in this pariſh were little concerned in the ling fiſhing. Many perſons now alive remember when there was not one ſix-oared boat in the miniſtry; and the firſt maſter of a boat to the Ha-af, or ling fiſhing, from Sanſting, is ſtill alive. Many of the tenants had large flocks of ſheep and cattle, and found their profit in ſtaying home to look after them, and others went to North-mavine fiſhing for fees; and, if they paid their rent to the landlord, nothing more was aſked. The landlords now find it neceſſary to proſecute the fiſhing on their own account; and to increaſe the number of ſeamen, is their great and conſtant endeavour. With this view, outſets were increaſed, greatly to the detriment of the paſture and ſheep flocks. The rentalled lands were ſubdivided, and ſet on this expreſs proviſion, that they ſhould fit out a ſixth ſhare of a boat to the ling fiſhing; and every encouragement was given to young men to marry, and ſettle in the country. The revenues of the pariſh are certainly increaſed; but the number of women and children, who can do nothing for themſelves or the landlord, in much greater proportion. The ſtock of cattle and ſheep is perhaps nearly the ſame; but, being divided among a much greater number of people, any material loſs, ſuch as happened in 1784, is much more ſeverely felt; and the production or profit of that ſtock cannot go ſo far in ſupplying the neceſſities of an increaſed number of people. The fiſhing is not nearly ſo plentiful now as before; but the quantity of land under cultivation, has perhaps increaſed in equal proportion with the people, (*i. e.* a much greater quan-

tity of land is under cultivation now than was 60 or 70 years ago). It must, however, be stated here, that the number of poor on the roll, about 60 years ago, was more than double of what it is now. Whether this was owing to improper admission, or if their necessities were really greater, cannot now be discovered. One probable conjecture is, that the number of servants must have been greater then than now; and, as they could hardly be supposed to save any thing from their trifling fees, they had little other dependance, when old, but on the poor's funds. One other observation is, that the Sunday collections were much greater then than they are now.

There are 205 families in the parish, (the average in a family $6\frac{1}{2}$); but, in many of these families, there are two sets of children; the father and his family, and the eldest son married, and has a family. They are divided, and classed by their ages, as per the table. No other division can be made. All the people in the parish are natives of Shetland, except one man from Argyle, and one woman from Aberdeenshire. There are no sectaries of any denomination;—no town or village;—no distinct division can be made by their occupations or situations in life. There are 3 blacksmiths, 4 masons, many taylors, weavers, wrights, boat-builders, shoemakers, &c.; but none earn their bread by that occupation alone: Every man almost is fisher, farmer, and artificer; so that hardly any man in the parish, except the minister, makes his bread by one trade.

Cattle.—The number of horses cannot be ascertained; (they exceed 800); they are very small, but generally handsome, and of high mettle;—are employed in the parish in carrying peats and turf, and in riding to church. A great number are sold annually to the farmers in Dunrossness, to Orkneymen,

Orkneymen, and to the merchants in Lerwick, who ſend them to Leith, London, Hull, Holland, &c. They fetch from 12 l. to 36 l. Scotch, *i. e.* from 1 l. to 3 l. Sterling.

The number of ſheep cannot be properly aſcertained, as they go at freedom on the hills; and ſome of them are ſo wild, as only to be caught by dogs; and the owners are very careful to conceal their number, to cheat the teind-maſter. Perhaps 9000 may be near the truth.

There are 850 milching cows, beſides oxen and young cattle, and a great number of ſwine, who go looſe in the paſture in ſummer; and not being ringed, do a great deal of miſchief; and, in winter, they turn up and deſtroy the corn land and meadows. No mines or mineral ſprings of any conſequence.

Diſadvantages.—The want of manufactures is a great loſs, as the people, eſpecially women and children, are idle for at leaſt half of the year.—The woollen manufacture moſt naturally preſents itſelf, in the firſt place. The tenants have no tacks, but ſit from year to year, at the will of their landlord. By this means they are diſcouraged from improving their farm; becauſe, when they grow old, or unable to go to ſea, they may be turned out, and are very often overbid by young ſtout men. The immoderate conſumpt of tea and ſpirituous liquours is a great ruin to their health and circumſtances. It would be impoſſible to carry on the fiſhing without gin; but the ſmall retail ſhops in the pariſh are a great nuiſance and ruin.

The people, in general, have too great a turn for fine clothes. A great deal of money is laid out in a year for Scotch and Engliſh cloths, ſtuffs, cottons, lawns, &c. while their own wool is neglected or deſtroyed. Perhaps a premium offered to the man who had the beſt ſuit of clothes

ſpun

ſpun in his houſe, and manufactured in the country, if not in the pariſh; and to the woman who had the beſt plaid, gown, and petticoat, of her own ſpinning, might prevent this, and give the people, in general, a turn for manufacturing their own wool.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The language ſpoke is a mixture of Norwegian, Dutch, and Engliſh; but all the inhabitants now underſtand pure Engliſh, though they could ſpeak among themſelves ſo as an Engliſhman could not underſtand them. The names of places are of Norwegian extraction, and are generally expreſſive of the ſituation, or ſome property of the place. Examples are needleſs. Many people now living obſerve the great change in manners and dreſs of the inhabitants: They remember when tea was not known;—when there was not a coat in the pariſh but what had been ſpun and woven in it;—and only two or three hats in the pariſh: They obſerve alſo, that there is not a ſixth part of the ſmall fiſh to be caught along the ſhores now as when they were boys. Boats were then ſeldom uſed but for ling and cod; they got plenty of ſillocks and pillocks from the rocks.—The ſmall-pox have not been general in this pariſh within the memory of man until 1791. Whole families of people, from 60 years and downwards, were ſeized with this diſeaſe. The people were at firſt much afraid of them, and uſed every mean to avoid the infection. It ſoon, however, ſpread through the pariſh; and, of about 30 who caught it in the natural way, full two thirds died. They were at laſt perſuaded to ſubmit to inoculation. 327 were inoculated by a phyſician, of which 5 died; one of them a woman paſt 60; another a very ſickly boy. About 100 were inoculated by common men, who pretended to no ſkill, and gave no medicines. Five of theſe died; and the greateſt

part

part of the reſt, had the good fortune to fall under the phyſicians care, and all of them learned his cool regimen. (A young gentlemen in the neighbourhood inoculated above 200 there, and did not loſe one). There are ſtill about 250 in this pariſh who would not ſubmit to inoculation, and had the good luck to eſcape the infection. The ſmall-pox ſpread over about half the pariſh in 1740; and it appears, from a regiſter of deaths at that time, that there died 78. About 40 years ago, they were in a ſmall corner of the pariſh, eſpecially about Cullſwick; there are at leaſt a third more inhabitants there now, than were then, and there died 17 in that place, 11 of which were buried in one week. In 1791 there were 58 inoculated in Cullſwick, and not *one* died.

A number of young men from this pariſh go to ſea. Sometimes they engage with the Greenland ſhips for the ſeaſon, and are landed again in the autumn. Their wages are high; but they learn many bad habits, and ſeldom put their money to good uſe. Many of them bind apprentices to Greenland, and other ſhips, and make fine hardy ſeamen. During the American war four men enliſted for ſoldiers, which is very uncommon here. The country, in general, agreed with government for a certain number of men during the war, for which they got protections to fiſhers from being impreſſed. Of theſe 20 went from this pariſh, and only eight returned, or are alive.

NUMBER LIV.

PARISH OF MUIRKIRK.

(*County and Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.*)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN SHEPPARD.

Name, Soil, and Surface.

THIS parish was formerly called "the Muirkirk of "Kyle;" and no person who looks on its *face*, can be at any loss for the origin of its *name*.—No great proportion of this parish is arable, or fit for tillage. As the country is hilly, the surface of the greater part of it is heath or hether, interspersed with spots of verdure; both of which, taken together, afford good pasture for sheep. Where two thirds of the surface is hether, and the other grass, the pasture is reckoned by the sheep-farmers preferable to any other. Even where the plough is employed, which is the case in many parts of this parish, the ground is not well adapted to the improvements of agriculture. The soil is, in general, mossy, and the alternative commonly light and gravelly. Some few spots, indeed, are to be found where it is deep, and of a pretty strong clay; but these bear no proportion to those of a contrary quality. As much of the ground is wet or marshy, draining is a most necessary improvement; indeed so necessary, that it must be first in order, before any other can be attempted with any possibility of success.

Hills,

Hills, Woods, Rivers, &c.—The only remarkable hill, in the pariſh, ſtands at a ſmall diſtance from the manſe, and is called *Cairn*, or *Cairn Table*. It is of a conſiderable height; and, in a clear day, affords a proſpect both extenſive and diverſified. Two large cairns of ſtones are heaped together on its ſummit; and here, tradition ſays, was formerly a place of worſhip.

There are no natural woods of any extent in this pariſh. Some few banks indeed, in different parts, and pretty far diſtant from one another, are covered with trees that ſeem to grow ſpontaneouſly; but the general face of the country is by no means ſo agreeably diverſified. It would appear, however, that this was not its original ſtate, eſpecially from the names given to particular farms, ſuch as Nether-*Wood*, Har-*Wood*, &c. The names ſtill remain, and ſo do the farms; but the woods are now no where to be ſeen. They have left no veſtiges, not a ſingle repreſentative behind them, except a few decaying old trees can be called by that name, which after all are, in all probability, of a later origin. Long trunks and branches of trees, found deep buried in moſſes, confirm the notion that the woods once covered theſe very ſpots where now only their names remain. It is much to be regretted, eſpecially in ſuch a country and climate, that theſe woods are now no more, for ſurely the ground, or rather paſture, to be gained by deſtroying them is by no means an equivalent for the loſs of one of the moſt natural, as well as greateſt ornaments, of the face of any country. Among theſe trees that here ſeem to grow ſpontaneouſly, the chief is the mountain aſh, or rowan-tree, as it is called in the language of the country. It adorns the wildeſt ſcenes; and often meets the eye unexpectedly by the ſide of a barren rock or ſequeſtered ſtream, ſeldom ſeen, indeed, except by the inhabitants of the air, and the flocks that paſture around, or their ſolitary

tary keeper as he moves along to "call his wanderers home." There are no rocks either of ſize or ſhape ſufficient to ſtrike the eye of the traveller, or deſerve notice. There are no remarkable rivers that run through the pariſh, though a variety of leſſer ſtreams. The principal are, the water of Ayr and that of Greenock; the latter takes it name not from its ſource, or from the adjacent country, but, in all probability, from a range of farms near its banks; it joins the water of Ayr at the boundary of the pariſh to the weſt. The laſt mentioned riſes in this pariſh a few miles eaſtwards of the manſe. It is ſoon ſwelled by a number of leſſer ſtreams; and taking its courſe by Lorn, and the pictureſque ſcenes of Barſkimming, at laſt runs into the ſea, at the county town. Both of theſe waters abound with trout of a blackiſh colour, but excellent quality, with ſome few eels, but here are ſcarce any perch. They have ſuffered much of late by the ravages of poachers with nets, who, at once, pillage the rivers, and deſtroy the more moderate ſport of the *angler*, who ſeldom fails to pour forth bleſſings liberally on them, as he returns home with his baſket much lighter than uſual.

Birds, &c.—The birds are much the ſame as in other parts of Scotland. It is to be regretted that there are few ſongſters of the grove; and indeed, except the ſky-lark, few of the ſpring, as the melody of the blackbird and thruſh is ſeldom heard. The larger curlew or *whaup*, which hatches here in ſummer; and returns to the ſea ſhore in autumn, is one of thoſe early viſitants that announce the approach of ſpring, and call to begin the labours of the garden. Like the cuckoo *, it has little variety of notes, but it appears much earlier;

* The cuckoo has been celebrated in a little ode, that may almoſt vie with the muſic of the ſpring (vide Logan's poems.)

but,

earlier; and its view is the more pleaſing as it announces that the ſeverity of the winter is paſt, and that 'the time of 'the ſinging of birds' is approaching.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The air is naturally ſharp, and favourable to health, though often loaded with vapours and damps, owing to the moſſes and marſhy grounds, ſo frequently to be met with, and the ſurrounding hills which intercept the clouds. It is no wonder that both of theſe taken together ſhould form an atmoſphere not perfectly dry. As a proof of this, a few days will affect, with mouldineſs on its ſurface, any thing placed on an earthen floor or lower ſtorey. A convincing proof that the atmoſphere would, in all probability, prove unfavourable to the health of the inhabitants, were it not for the frequent high winds which diſperſe the moiſt vapours, or at leaſt change their places, and prevent them from ſtagnating. Neither this, nor indeed any other cauſe, ariſing from ſituation, affect the inhabitants with thoſe diſtempers which are commonly produced by a moiſt air or damp ſituation. There are here no peculiar diſeaſes, nor any other that do not equally affect other countries, and other ſi-

But, the curlew, though one of its earlieſt birds, has never been ſo fortunate, and as the writer of this cannot deck him in poetic plumes, like the other, he begs leave in humble proſe to relate the following anecdote in his praiſe. A country gentleman, from the weſt of Scotland, and who lived in a pariſh very ſimilar to this, both in ſoil and climate, being occaſionally in England for a few weeks, was, one delightful ſummer evening, aſked out to hear the nightingale. His friend informing him, at the ſame time, that this bird was a native of England, and never to be heard in his own country. After he had liſtened, with attention, for ſome time, upon being aſked if he was not much delighted with the nightingale. "It's a' very gude," replied the other, in the dialect of his own country, "But I "wad na' gie the *wheeple of a whaup* for a the nightingales that "ever ſang."

tuations. Perhaps daily habit gradually forms the conſtitution to every climate and every ſtate, and prevents the human body from receiving injury from theſe circumſtances that would affect the conſtitution of others not born to them.

State of Property.—Property has been changing its poſſeſſors for ſome time paſt, and is ſtill in a fluctuating ſtate. Formerly the greater part of the whole pariſh was divided among a number of ſmaller heritors. But as a gentleman of extenſive fortune has bought the lands of ſeveral of them, the number of proprietors is conſiderably diminiſhed of late. The number of theſe, who reſide, does not exceed 4, whoſe property is not very extenſive. The non-reſiding heritors amount to about 10, including the two principal ones; one of whom comes into the pariſh only occaſionally, and the other ſeldom or never at all.

The value of property is much increaſed in this pariſh within theſe few years. A ſheep farm, for inſtance, which, a few years ago, was bought for 300 l. within this twelvemonth gave 1000 guineas; and this is by no means diſproportioned to the price of other lands lately ſold here. What, at firſt ſight at leaſt, makes this appear extraordinary is, that the riſe above mentioned is not, as in ſome like caſes, owing to the advanced improvements of agriculture, or cultivation, or, indeed, to any material change of the ſoil in any one reſpect, but the diſcovery, and expectation of farther diſcovering, thoſe uſeful minerals, which even the moſt barren ſpots cover and contain, and which are ſo neceſſary for carrying into effect the manufactures lately eſtabliſhed here, has ſtampt a ſuperlative value on thoſe grounds, on whoſe ſurface the traveller was formerly apt to caſt his eye with indifference, and ſometimes with diſguſt.

Huſbandry.

Huſbandry.—The implements of huſbandry here are the common ones, which are too generally known to need either enumeration or deſcription: The mode of cultivation, is the eaſieſt and ſimpleſt the inhabitants can find. Aſhes and the contents of the dunghill, the manure commonly in uſe. Such melioration as may be got by vicinity to the ſea ſhore, is not to be procured here; even lime, with which the country abounds, has been hitherto ſeldom, and but ſparingly, uſed by the common farmer, who alleges that it calls forth the whole ſtrength of ſoil in a ſingle year or two, and, of conſequence, impoveriſhes the ground in proportion for double the number following. But the more ſatisfactory reaſon, alleged at leaſt, is that lime ſpread on the ground, is unfavourable to ſheep paſture, which laſt is, indeed, the principal object with every farmer and ſmaller proprietor: Here, as on the other hand, there ſeems but little encouragement to the improvements of agriculture, or even of common tillage, in a country where, whatever other advantage it may poſſeſs, it muſt be acknowledged both the ſoil and climate forbid the luxuriance of growth, or where, ſhould the grain outgrow the ordinary ſize, the too early froſts either check or arreſt it in its progreſs, and prevent it from ripening, while, on the contrary, the lighter and poorer increaſe coming earlier to maturity, eſcape the danger. Though, from the above cauſes, huſbandry has remained only in its infancy here for a conſiderable time paſt, yet, from the fluctuating ſtate of property, and its ſometimes falling into the hands of men of fortune, who have money to ſpare in making experiments, it is to be ſuppoſed that new implements, and new modes will be introduced, though, after all, it is hard to ſay whether good crops of graſs, for paſture in ſummer and hay for cattle in winter, is not the utmoſt to which the ground here can be brought; and,

and, upon the whole, the beſt mode of melioration and improvement.

Seed-time and Harveſt.—The ſeed-time is much the ſame here as in other parts of the country, but the harveſt is late, being ſeldom general before the end of September, and ſometimes not till the beginning of the month following. There is hardly any poſſibility of haſtening it by ſowing earlier, as the ground, from various cauſes, is not ſooner in caſe to receive or nouriſh the ſeed; to ſow grain therefore of the earlieſt kind that can be procured, is the only probable method of providing againſt this material inconvenience. Thoſe generally raiſed here are oats, and common or rough bear, in contradiſtinction to barley, ſometimes rye, ſeldom peaſe, which, unleſs in favourable ſeaſons, do not ripen. Potatoes commonly thrive well, and make a great part of the food not only of the poorer ſort, but of the generality, in the end of autumn and during the whole of winter. In common they are dreſſed with milk, and make both a palatable and wholeſome meal *.

Good and bad Seaſons.—No particular incident has marked the ſeaſons here for years paſt. The common calamities which

* Hardly any root cultivated in this country is ſo generally agreeable, and ſuited, at once, to the taſte, both of the luxurious and of the poor, of children, and grown perſons, as the potatoe, yet perhaps no root whatever is, taken by itſelf, more inſipid and taſteleſs. Its agreeableneſs is perhaps owing to this very cauſe, as we find thoſe foods that affect the palate moſt ſtrongly, though ever ſo agreeably, moſt quickly loſe their reliſh, and ſooneſt become diſagreeable or nauſeous; and preſumption, at leaſt, that the ſimpleſt foods are the moſt conducive to health, becauſe moſt agreeable to nature.

which affected the country, in general, and its higheſt parts in particular, in the year 1782 were ſeverely felt here *.

Real and Valued Rent.—The real rent about 1400 l. Sterling; and the valued rent 1881. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling.

Price of Grain and Proviſions.—Meal *per* boll from 16 s. to 17 s. 4 d. common bear from 1 l. to 1 l. 2 s. Ayrſhire boll.

Theſe

* In this pariſh, ſevere froſts in the harveſt months, heavy rains, ſnows, and froſt again, reduced the corn, while on the ground, or in the ſheaf, to the ſtate of barley during the firſt ſtages of malting. The meal ſtill retained an unnatural and diſagreeable ſweetiſhneſs, and in colour reſembled coal or peat-aſhes. The ſtraw, by the above proceſs, was diſcoloured, and, when dry, ſeemed deprived of every vegetable juice, appeared taſteleſs, and void of nouriſhment. Phyſicians, and ſome who were no phyſicians, declared both grain and ſtraw to be unwholeſome, and prognoſticated diſeaſes and death to men and cattle. Yet it is remarkable none of thoſe direful conſequences enſued, and the cattle, in particular, never appeared healthier, or more ſtout for labour than in the ſpring immediately following. The ſame all-governing power which permitted the calamity to take place, ſeeming to interpoſe to prevent or ſuſpend its natural and ſo much dreaded conſequences. Poſſibly, too, the nouriſhment of the grain was arreſted in the ſtraw, but though this will account for the healthineſs of cattle, yet, by no means, for that of the ſpecies. Much praiſe is due to the humanity of thoſe who, this ſeaſon, ſo ſtrenuouſly and ſucceſsfully exerted themſelves to ſave their fellow men from famine and from hunger, in thoſe parts of the kingdom where the fruits of the earth were entirely blaſted or deſtroyed, by bringing grain from the more fruitful fields of richer countries in happier climes. Much alſo is to be aſcribed to the exertions of thoſe who brought foreign aid to thoſe parts of this country, where the calamity was ſtill felt, though not ſo ſeverely. A ſpecies of white field peaſe imported, became very ſeaſonable ſupply to this pariſh, eſpecially in the ſpring months, and moderated in a great degree, the threatened calamity. Upon the whole, it may be affirmed that dearneſs of meal, but not abſolute ſcarcity, and the deſtruction of ſeed grain, were the only material inconveniencies which this part of the country ſuffered from the unfortunate ſeaſon 1782.

Theſe are the only marketable grain produced in the pariſh. Beef from 5 d. to 5½ d. *per* pound, mutton 4½ d. and 5 d. veal 6 d. pork from 5 d. to 6 d.; lamb 4 d. and 5½ d. butter from 9 d. to 10 d. cheeſe from 4 s. a ſtone to 7 s. 6 d. ewe-milk cheeſe when new 6 d. *per* pound, when old 9 d. fowls from 9 d. to 12 d. chickens from 3 d. to 4 d. eggs *per* dozen 3 d. 4 d. and 5 d. It is here proper to remark that proviſions of all kinds have riſen conſiderably of late, from the vaſt increaſe of conſumers. This pariſh never did raiſe grain ſufficient to maintain its inhabitants even in its former ſtate, now it may be aſſerted, that even at a moderate computation, its produce of grain, &c. is not equal to above one third of the demand.

Wages and Price of Labour.—Both of theſe too have had a very conſiderable riſe from the above cauſe, and the manufactures lately eſtabliſhed. Men ſervants receive from 8 l. to 12 l. yearly with victuals, women from 3 l. to 4 l. Labourers *per* day from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. without victuals; mowers, in hay time, 1 s. 3 d. with victuals; wrights, 2 s. without victuals; maſons, the ſame; taylors, from 10 d. to 1 s. with victuals; ſhoemakers, weavers, &c. charge by the piece, but their wages have riſen in the ſame proportion.

Manufactures.—There are two conſiderable manufactures lately eſtabliſhed here, that of iron and coal-tar. The latter now produces likewiſe a manufacture of lamp-black. As the former is yet in its infancy, an account cannot be given of it ſo minute, at leaſt, and particular, as if it were in a more advanced and mature ſtate. Its firſt commencement was in the year 1787, and the furnace began to blow in July 1789. The manufacture is not yet brought to the perfection intended, but is gradually advancing, and in a progreſſive ſtate.

There

There are, for the encouragement of thoſe concerned, the moſt favourable appearances in the neceſſary articles of coal, iron-ſtone, and lime. Several attempts have been made for diſcovering iron ore, but it has not yet been found in any large quantity. Appearances however favour farther experiments.

Towns and Villages.—The only village, or rather *clachan*, as they are commonly called, that deſerves the name, lies at a ſmall diſtance from the church, by the ſide of the high road, on a riſing ground called Garan-hill, which therefore gives name to the range of houſes that occupy it. They have increaſed greatly in number ſince the commencement of the works, and new houſes and new ſtreets have riſen around them. Many new houſes, beſides ſome of them of a very neat ſtructure, have been built at the works themſelves, and others are daily appearing that will, in a ſhort time, greatly exceed in number and elegance thoſe of the old village, formerly indeed the only one that the pariſh could boaſt.

Roads and Bridges.—The road from Edinburgh to Ayr by Carnwath and Douglas-miln runs through this pariſh, and, excepting a few miles in the pariſh itſelf, is in tolerable repair. Another great road from Glaſgow to Dumfries and Carliſle is now in great forwardneſs, and will be compleated before the end of the preſent year. It will run acroſs the pariſh ſomewhat in a tranſverſe direction, and interſecting the other near the great new inn, and then ſtopping its courſe ſouthwards to Sanquhar, will ſhorten the communication with Dumfries by ſeveral miles. There are three bridges now a-building, on the line of road from Edinburgh to Ayr. One on the water of Ayr itſelf; one on the water of Greenock, before its junction with Ayr; and, a third, on the water of Garpel.

Garpel. These bridges have been long much wished for by the public; and it seems strange that they should not have been built sooner on a line of road so long and so much frequented.

State of Church, Manse, &c.—The parish kirk was repaired, and heightened, in the year 1775, when the present minister was admitted. Though sufficient *then* to accomodate the whole parish, it is now, by no means, large enough to contain the present inhabitants, and those numbers that have been pouring in from all quarters, in consequence of the manufactures. To accomodate with seats, even those of them who seem earnestly to desire the means of religious instruction, it would be necessary either to make a considerable addition to the present kirk, or to build a new one.—The glebe consists of between 8 and 9 acres, almost all arable, yet unfit for tillage, because unfit to raise such crops as sufficiently repay the labour. For some years, it has been used only as pasture, and raising hay for winter, a mode of treating it that seems best adopted to its nature. In many places, it is wet, and, in others, runs into the opposite extreme, being light and gravelly. Draining has been attempted for the former, and in many places with success. Indeed this mode never almost misses its aim, for it seldom fails to drain either the *ground* or pocket.—The original stipend is 400 l. Scots, 2 chalders meal, and one of bear, about 70 l. in value at an average. An augmentation has been lately decerned, which, including communion elements, does not amount to 14 l. Sterling. This, it seems, from the want of free teinds, is the utmost that can be granted.

Poor.—The poor are supported by the weekly collections, together with the interest of their money. The principals amounting

amounting to 130 l. and lent out for the above purpoſe. The yearly collections formerly were 12 l. they are now about 17 l. Theſe funds are managed by the kirk ſeſſion, the truſtees in the firſt inſtance, who generally take care that the yearly income and diſburſements keep pace with one another, and that the principal is not encroached upon. None of the poor are allowed to ſtroll into other pariſhes; and there is ſeldom an inſtance of one begging within the bounds of the pariſh itſelf, yet the country, in general, and this pariſh in particular, is much viſited, or rather infeſted, by ſtrolling poor, from other quarters. One cauſe of this is the improper police of ſome larger towns. Nothing is more common than to baniſh thoſe that are convicted of bad practices the "Li-"berties of the city," as they are called. This is neither more nor leſs, than to *puniſh* the adjacent country for ſins committed in the town, to lay it under contribution for the convenience of the city, and free the *one* of nuiſances by ſending them to the *other*. Becauſe the worthleſs behave ill in one part of the kingdom ſeems no good reaſon for ſending them over the country at large; and allowing them a wider range for their depredations. Baniſhment, beſides, from one particular diſtrict, or, in other words, *enlargement*, is no puniſhment to *vagabonds*, but the contrary. It is told of a ſoldier, from a neighbouring kingdom, who being convicted of mal-practices, was to be baniſhed *Scotland* for life. When the judge intimated the penalty, "Bleſs your honour," ſaid the culprit, "put your ſentence ſoon in execution."

School and number of Scholars.—There is a pariſh ſchool eſtabliſhed, with a ſalary of 7 l. 15 s. about 40 ſcholars attend in winter and 30 in ſummer. The branches taught are Latin, Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book keeping, and occaſionally church muſic. The ſchoolmaſter poſſeſſes, beſides,

a free house and garden; and his whole emoluments, exclusive of the two last, may amount to about 30l. *per annum.*

Parish Records.—For about 20 years past, a regular list has been kept of marriages, births, and deaths; before that period, the accounts are very imperfect, often broken off, in some places hardly legible, seem to have been irregularly taken, or, if regular, are now lost.

Marriages, for the 3 last years, - - -	40
Births, for ditto, - - -	145
Deaths, ditto, - - -	74

The greater number of growing persons have died of consumptions, of children the greater number of the natural small-pox.

Population.—In 1755 the numbers were rated at 745. When the present minister was admitted in this parish, the number of examinable persons was 447. The increase of men, women, and children, connected with the manufactures, is 532. The whole number of souls, at present, may be computed at about 1100. The word computed is used because, in a crowd of people, that are perpetually shifting, some going and some coming in their room, it is difficult to mark the precise number for even a few weeks; and were the numbers *now* fixed, they would not probably remain the same till the account of them is published. They will, however, in all probability, greatly increase, and that in a few years.

Horses, Sheep, &c.—The number of horses has increased considerably within these few years. The iron works, in their several imployments, maintain about 30, and these, together with those employed in other parts of the parish, amount

amount in all to about 75. Horſes are at preſent about three times the price they gave 40 or 50 years ago.—About 14,000 ſheep are produced and paſtured in this pariſh. They have riſen in value conſiderably within theſe few years alſo. Though the chief article of trade here, there is only one market for them upon the ſpot, and that chiefly for lambs, about the beginning of Auguſt. They are commonly driven for ſale to Linton, Lanark, Carnwath, Kilbryd, and ſometimes Glaſgow and Edinburgh.

Mineral Springs.—There is only one ſpring that has yet been diſcovered that is of a medicinal nature. It is uſeful in complaints of the ſtomach or bowels. Indeed, from the great quantities of iron ſtone, together with ſome ore, it is to be preſumed that ſeveral chalybeates might be found, or perhaps already flow unſeen and undiſcovered, eſpecially as the water, when confined or checked in its progreſs, ſeems tinged in the ſame manner as when it touches iron or ſteel.

Antiquities, &c.—There are here, ſcattered up and down, the monuments of ſome of thoſe covenanters who fell during the calamities of the period in which they lived. Of theſe the moſt remarkable is the grave-ſtone of one John Brown, erected at a ſheep farm-houſe, called Prieſt-hill or Prieſt-ſhiel, near the confines of the pariſh of Leſmahagow. His monument is placed on the ſpot where he ſuffered, not far from the threſhold of his door. The inſcription is legible, and bears that he was ſhot through the head by a party commanded by Graham of Claverhouſe, while upon his knees, and in the act of prayer. Tradition adds, that Claverhouſe, or one of his party, lifted up his dead body, and carried it to his wife, aſking her, "what ſhe thought of her "huſband? "Mair, ſaid ſhe, than ever I did; but the Lord "will

" will avenge this another day:" Such are the bleſſed effects of enforcing or attempting to enforce *uniformity* in religion.

Size, Manners of the People, &c.—Nothing very ſingular diſtinguiſhes the people here from thoſe of other pariſhes of the like nature. They are of the ordinary ſize in general, and of a healthy and robuſt conſtitution. There turn of mind, ſo far as it is peculiar, is, in a great degree, formed by their ſituation and manner of life, and they diſcover a ſtrong attachment to the place of their birth, and former reſidence, or, in their own words, " weary ſair for the Muir-" kirk," even when they remove to countries more fruitful and better cultivated. Their chief amuſement in winter is *curling*, or playing ſtones on ſmooth ice; they eagerly vie with one another who ſhall come neareſt the mark, and one part of the pariſh againſt another;—one deſcription of men againſt another;—one trade or occupation againſt another;—and often one whole pariſh againſt another,—earneſtly contend for the *palm*, which is generally all the prize, except perhaps the victors claim from the vanquiſhed, the dinner and bowl of toddy, which, to do them juſtice, *both* commonly take together with great cordiality, and, generally, without any grudge at the fortune of the day, or remembrance of their late combat with one another, wiſely reflecting, no doubt, that *defeat* as well as *victory* is the fate of *war*. Thoſe accuſtomed to this amuſement, or that have acquired dexterity in the game, are extremely fond of it. The amuſement itſelf is healthful; it is innocent; it does no body harm; let them enjoy it. There is another cuſtom here, leſs noted indeed, but ſeemingly of equal antiquity, commonly known in the language of the country by the name of *rocking*, that is when neighbours viſit one another in pairs, or three or more in company, during the moon-light of winter or ſpring,

and

and ſpend the evening alternately in one anothers houſes. It is here marked becauſe the cuſtom ſeems to have ariſen when ſpinning on the *rock* or *diſtaff* was in uſe, which therefore was carried along with the viſitant to a neighbour's houſe. The cuſtom ſtill prevails, though the *rock* is laid aſide; and when one neighbour ſays to another, in the words of former days, "I am coming over with my *rock*," he means no more than to tell him that he intends ſoon to ſpend an evening with him.

Diſadvantages and Advantages.—The diſadvantages may be collected, in general, from what has been already mentioned as to the nature of the ſoil and climate. The principal meliorations or improvements ſtill requiſite are incloſing; but the incloſures muſt be formed with ſtone dykes to render them effectual in a ſheep country; alſo draining, and planting trees, in order to ſhelter the fields from cold, and "clothe "the nakedneſs of the land." In all theſe reſpects the exertions of Admiral Stewart, who has now a large ſhare of property in the pariſh, are worthy of notice, particularly in the laſt. His large plantations of trees of various kinds that diverſify the ſcene, ſome in belts, ſome in other forms, but all extenſive and covering different grounds, formerly of little uſe, as they now begin to ſtrike the eye of the paſſenger as he moves along, promiſe, in a few years, to give a very different aſpect to the face of the country. Some plantations too of the Iron Company begin to riſe to view. They are diſpoſed with taſte, on ſpots happily choſen, where they will ſoon riſe to beauty. Though not ſo extenſive as the other, yet, for the ſhare of property the Company poſſeſſes, they are very conſiderable.

This pariſh poſſeſſes many advantages that are not always the lot even of better climates, and of richer ſoils. No coun-

try

try abounds more with peat, coal, lime, and good quarries of ſtone for building. Were any remark to be made upon the *qualities* of theſe; the coal does not ſeem to have equal ſtrength with that found in the deeper ſoils of the Lothians, therefore burns for a ſhorter period, but that inconvenience is ſufficiently compenſated by it abounding almoſt every where along the ſides of the water, its cheapneſs to the conſumer, and its acceſſibleneſs to all. Perhaps the lime too may be liable to the ſame remark, and from the ſame cauſe; but the ſtone lies under no ſuch exception. It is of a proper colour, and takes an excellent poliſh, being equally adapted to conveniency or ornament.

Theſe are the local and natural advantages of this pariſh, and they are no doubt conſiderable. But it boaſts, of late, *other* advantages, ſtill greater in one reſpect, becauſe they enhance its natural ones, give them value, and call them forth into effect, I mean the manufactures lately eſtabliſhed, and which have been already mentioned. The ſucceſs of theſe is an object truly deſirable. Every friend of his country and of the public muſt, upon all occaſions, wiſh well to laudable and uſeful enterpriſe. We reſpect, nay we *praiſe*, that man who can improve or enrich the ſurface of the earth, can mow down rich crops from fields formerly barren, or even double the grains of corn, upon thoſe that bore before. But ſurely an equal ſhare of praiſe is juſtly due to that man, who, in countries that are ungrateful to the labours of cultivation, and either diſcourage or forbid its ungainful toil, can drag from the ſluggiſh boſom of the earth, in which they lie concealed, inactive, and uſeleſs, thoſe minerals, which under the forming hand of art gradually aſſume every figure and every ſhape, and ſerve at once to accommodate, or adorn life.

NUM-

NUMBER LV.

PARISH OF DUNDONALD.

(*County and Preſbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr.*)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT DUNCAN.

Name and Situation.

NO word in the Engliſh language accurately determines the form of that riſing ground which is known in Scotland by the Celtic term, *dun*. The pariſh of Dundonald derives its name from an eminence on which ſtands an antient and royal caſtle. In this caſtle lived and died Robert II. the firſt King of the Stewart line. From Irvine harbour, which is within its limit, this pariſh extends eight Engliſh miles along the ſea coſt, and terminates on the ſouth, at the place where the Rumbling and Pow-burns meet, and diſcharge themſelves into the ſea: A place which, on account of its quick ſands, is very dangerous to travellers *.

Soil

* The ſea coaſt between Ayr and Irvine being flat, and, excepting at this place, which is about three miles from Ayr, the ſands being firm and the proſpect delightful, a ſtrong temptation is preſented to paſs from the one town to the other along ſhore. But, as ſome perſons have been burried alive at this ſpot, it is an important caution not to attempt paſſing it at high water, and at other times to keep as cloſe as poſſible to the low water mark.

Soil and Appearance.—The pariſh of Dundonald preſents as great variety in point of Soil and external appearance as is to be met with in any part of the kingdom. The Claven hills and Shoualton moſs, which lies immediately under them to the north, divide it almoſt into two equal parts; upper and lower. The former being inland, is, in general, of a fertile clay, though ſome farms are more inclined to a loamy, and two or three to a light texture. This part of the pariſh conſiſts of gentle eminences, adorned with clumps and belts of planting. The lower part, between the hills and the ſea, is very flat. Some barren ſandy hillocks are to be ſeen in different places by the ſhore. Cutting the bent, which grows upon them, no doubt, adds to their barrenneſs, and renders them a better ſport to the winds. However, there is a great extent of arable, and eſpecially of good paſture, ground near the ſea, and particularly about the Troone. Half a mile inward, and along the ſkirts of the hills, is a mixed ſoil of excellent quality; very proper for culture, and which, after regular tillage, runs immediately into rich graſs.

The Claven hills conſiſt of various heights, and extend about three miles from ſouth-eaſt to north-weſt, and a mile and an half from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt. Many of theſe heights are arable, all of them afford paſture, and ſome of them have their ſhelving ſides ornamented with oak, aſh, birch, alder, hazle, &c. None of them are ſo elevated as to require critical meaſurement, or compariſon with many hills in the county of Ayr, yet they have long been diſtinguiſhed by particular names. The two higheſt are ſtiled the Lamont and Warley hills. Perhaps the latter, which overtops the reſt, is a corruption for warlike; the lines of two encampments being ſtill diſtinct upon it. Theſe are uſually deſigned Roman encampments, though their form appears ſufficiently to confute that deſignation. The largeſt contains, within a circular embarkment of looſe ſtones and earth, ten

acres

acres of ground; and there is an inner circle of the ſame kind, and from the ſame center, which incloſes one of theſe acres. The other encampment is about two hundred yards diſtant. No artificial work has ever been raiſed upon its north-eaſt quarter; the ſteepneſs of the declivity being a ſufficient defence. But, on the ſouth and weſt, the circular embankment is ſtrong, and within is a beautiful platform not exceeding an acre in extent. Hiſtorians ſeem to agree that the Norwegians, who afterwards were defeated at Largs, landed near to Ayr; and it is not improbable that theſe heights were immediately occupied, and in this manner fortified, by them. No place could be more proper for their purpoſe, both on account of the extenſive proſpect, and of its great ſecurity before the invention of fire arms. A perſon ſtanding within either of theſe encampments, is entertained with a delightful proſpect, to the ſouth, of the lands lying upon Ayr and Doon rivers; and the proſpect, upon this quarter, is terminated by the high hills of Carrick and Galloway. Turning to the north-eaſt, Cunningham and part of Kyle exhibit a grand and rich amphitheatre, at leaſt 14 miles in diameter. In a clear day, the eye is loſt among hills ſtreaching far beyond Ben-Lomond. To the weſt, the ſpectator has a noble view of the frith of Clyde, of Bute, Cumbraes, Cowal, the Paps of Jura, Arran, Plada, Sanda, the point of Cantyre, and different parts of the kingdom of Ireland appearing between Kintyre and Ailſa. The ſingular form of this laſt iſland, riſing like a mighty pyramid from the ocean, is beautifully contraſted by the ſimilar appearance of Loudon hill, riſing on the oppoſite ſide from the land. No wonder that the inhabitants of the bleak mountains of Scandinavia were captivated with the proſpect, and excited to contend vigorouſly for the poſſeſſion of this part of Scotland.

Population.—In 1755, the number of ſouls was rated at 983.

In 1792, the total is	1317
Of theſe—Males	658
Females	659
Below 10 years of age	338
From 10 to 20 years	293
From 20 to 30	220
From 30 to 40	165
From 40 to 50	146
From 50 to 60	82
From 60 to 70	43
From 70 to 80	26
From 80 to 90	3
From 90 to 100	1
Annual average of births during 28 years	35
——————— of marriages	16
——————— of burials	17

Rent.—Valued rent 6367 l. 17 s. 5 d. Scots. Real rent about 6100 l. Sterling.

Church, School, and Poor.—To the miniſters ſtipend, which formerly was 100 bolls 14 pecks of meal, 32 bolls 11 pecks of bear, Ayrſhire meaſure, and 20 merks Scots; the Lords Commiſſioners of teinds have, this year, granted an augmentation of 25 l. 3 s. 2⅓ d. Sterling, and 5 l. Sterling to defray the expence of communion elements. The manſe was rebuilt in 1784, upon a very neat plan, and was the firſt in this part of the country, which had ſlated offices. The glebe is 4 acres. No graſs is allowed for horſe or cows. The ſchoolmaſters ſalary is 100 merks Scots. The average of ſcholars, 34. The inhabitants are obliged to keep two private ſchools, in two corners of the pariſh, which are at too great a diſtance from

from the kirk town, for their young children. The ſchool-maſter has a dwellinghouſe and ſchoolhouſe, but no garden.

The funds for the poor are, the intereſt of 144 l. ſtock in the bank of Ayr, the monies received at private baptiſms and for mortcloths, and the weekly collections: The average of the proviſion for the poor for nine years paſt, is 36 l. Seven perſons, receive, at preſent, a weekly penſion from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; and eleven receive occaſional ſupply. None are allowed to beg. Near to the village of Dundonald, is the caſtle already mentioned, which gives name to the earldom in the family of Cochrane. The riſing ground on which the caſtle ſtands, with 5 roods of land adjoining, is all the property in this pariſh which now pertains to that family. No authentic record can be produced at what time this caſtle was built, or when it was ſpoiled of its roof, and rendered deſolate. A large pile ſtill remains: The walls are very thick, and built of whinſtone, which is in abundance near it. The corners are of a freeſtone, ſuperior in quality to any now found in the pariſh. The Stuart arms are engroſſed in different parts of the building, and the whole has much the form of thoſe caſtles which were raiſed in many places of Britain during the 12th and 13th centuries. Among the hills is ſtill diſcernable the veſtige of another caſtle, called Kemplaw, and which is ſaid to have been of high antiquity.

Oppoſite to the village and caſtle is a very beautiful bank of wood, upwards, in moſt places, of 100 feet in height, and extending near a mile to the northweſt. In a grand curvature of this bank, and on a gentle eminence, ſtands the houſe of Auchans, for a long period the reſidence of the Wallaces of Dundonald. About 1640, this eſtate came into the poſſeſſion of Sir William Cochrane of Lowdon, knight; who was afterwards created Earl of Dundonald. Since the beginning of this century, the eſtate has been the property of the

Earl

Earl of Eglintoune, who, with it, acquired the patronage of the pariſh. At the Auchans, are the remains of a ſmall orchard which was once in high reputation. The pear, known in Scotland by the name of Auchans, derived that name from this place. The tree came originally from France, was planted in this orchard, grew to a great height, and was, not long ago, blown down by a ſtorm. Some large trees, particularly planes and aſh, may be ſeen in different parts of the pariſh, eſpecially at the Auchans.

Heritors.—The heritors of the pariſh are in number 16, and, excepting two of them who have only 39 acres, reſide either within the bounds of the pariſh, or in its vicinity. The houſes of Fullerton, Fairlie, Hillhouſe, and Newfield are modern buildings, very commodious and elegant in their reſpective forms. To Mr Fairlie of Fairlie, the country is indebted for a conſiderable ſhare of its improvement in agriculture. Of this not only his own eſtate in this pariſh, but the numerous eſtates belonging to the Earl of Eglintoune, in the counties of Ayr, Lanerk, and Renfrew, all under his management, are a ſufficient demonſtration. Perſevering with uncommon firmneſs in combating the prejudices of old tenants, dividing the lands and making reſtrictions ſuitable to the ſoil and ſituation, he has rendered the farmers, in general, more wealthy and reſpectable, and the lands much more valuable. To Mr M'Kerrel of Hillhouſe, the country is under great obligations in another line. He was the firſt who introduced the ſilk manufactory into Paiſley, and his ſons ſtill carry it on to a conſiderable extent. Colonel Fullerton of Fullerton, and Major Crawfurd of Newfield, particularly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the Eaſt Indies.

Fuel.—This pariſh is well ſituated for fuel. Shoualton moſs,

moſs, which is of an irregular figure, near 4 miles in circumference, is an inexhauſtible fund for peat. But there is little demand for peat owing to the abundance of coal. At Fairlie a ſeeing coal has been wrought for many years for the benefit of the country, and, for ſome ſeaſons paſt, a good blind coal, which is exported at Irvine for the Iriſh market. On account of this coalwork, a village, named Rumford, has of late years ſtarted up cloſe by Fairlie bridge. It contains at preſent 74 inhabitants. At Shoualton a ſeeing coal is wrought both for the uſe of the people in the town and neighbourhood of Irvine, and for exportation. The load of coals has lately been raiſed, and is now ſold at the former of theſe works at 8 d. and at the later 10 d. Theſe collieries employ many ſailors and carters in Irvine, and during the ſummer and winter months, a number of tenants, who, by theſe means, give conſtant work to their horſes.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—A cotton work has lately been erected in the village of Dundonald, which employs 30 perſons, old and young. The carding machines are turned by a horſe. Excepting 6 weavers, 3 taylors, 4 ſhoemakers, 2 maſons, 4 joiners, and 3 ſmiths, the reſt of the inhabitants, able for work, are employed in agriculture. Land is let from 15 to 30 ſhillings *per* acre, according to its quality. Moſt of the farms are in 3, ſome in 4, breaks. Oats and bear are the principal articles of culture. There are 3 mills upon this ſide of Irvine river. One of them for oats; another for oats and lint; and the third, lately built upon the land of Shoualton, at conſiderable expence and with great improvements, for wheat, oats, and barley. No lime has ever been diſcovered in this pariſh. The farmers in the lower part of it have for many years imported lime-ſtone from Ireland. Conſidering the greater quantity of calcareous

reous earth in the Iriſh lime, they are at leſs expence for this kind of manure than to cart it from the neighbouring pariſhes of Symington and Riccartoun. They have likewiſe the advantage of the ſea-wrack. Notwithſtanding the hills and moſs already mentioned, the pariſh produces more than double the quantity of grain neceſſary for its own conſumpt. The attention of the farmers has, of late years, been turned to the rearing of young cattle, both horſes and cows, and to the making of ſweet-milk cheeſe. Both muſt in a ſhort time be highly beneficial to the country; much money having long been drained out of it, to England for cheeſe, and to Ireland for horſes. In ſummer 1791, there were in the pariſh 235 draught horſes, 120 young ditto, 14 bulls, 597 milch cows, 782 young ditto, bulls and ſtots; 433 black cattle feeding for market; 1090 ſheep, viz. 603 of the ſmall kind and black faced, 338 of a mixed breed between the Engliſh and Scotch, white faced; a Turkiſh ram brought by Colonel Fullerton from Conſtantinople in 1790, and 48 lambs the offſpring of this foreigner, and ewes of the mixed breed.

There are 4 licenced public houſes in the pariſh; but the inhabitants are, in general, very ſober and induſtrious. Their mode of living is much improved within theſe 20 years. Their way of living and their induſtry have a mutual influence. No cuſtoms or amuſements are peculiar to them. Great weddings are faſt going into diſuſe. Country burials are not well regulated. The company are invited at 11 o'clock forenoon, but they are, probably, not all arrived at 2. Till of late a pipe and tobacco were provided for every one of the company; but this cuſtom is entirely laid aſide. An antient practiſe ſtill continues in this pariſh and neighbourhood of kindling a large fire, or tawnle as it is uſually termed, of wood, upon ſome eminence, and making merry around it, upon

upon the eve of the Wedneſday of Marymaſs fair in Irvine. As moſt fair days in this country were formerly popiſh holy days, and their eves were uſually ſpent in religious ceremonies and in diverſions; it has been ſuppoſed, that tawnles were firſt lighted up by our catholic fathers, though ſome derive their origin from the druidical times.

The Troone, which might be made an excellent harbour, is the weſt point of Dundonald pariſh. In its natural condition, it affords ſafe anchoring ground from every quarter but the north-weſt. It is an arm of rock running near a mile into the ſea, and bending from ſouth to north, broad and covered with rich paſture towards the land, and narrowing into a barren point, part of which is for a little diſtance concealed even at low water. Within the point at half a cables length from the rock, the mariner may truſt to have three fathoms water at half-flood. The merchants of Glaſgow, ſenſible of the advantages of this natural harbour, near a century ago made offer to the proprietor of feuing the lands adjoining to it. But their offer was rejected, for a reaſon, as it is reported, which however ridiculous it may now appear, would be accounted very cogent in thoſe days; leſt a riſe ſhould be occaſioned in the price of butter and eggs. The place, where Port-Glaſgow now ſtands, was deemed by the merchants the next ſtation moſt eligible for their trade. The Lady-Iſle, which lies in the mouth of Ayr Bay, is a pendicle to this pariſh; and, as it affords ſecurity to veſſels upon this flat and dangerous coaſt, the Magiſtrates of Glaſgow have erected two pillars to direct them *. Upon the Troone ſtands an

* The following is the beſt ſtatiſtical account of the ſea-coaſt of this pariſh that can be given to the ſailor. 'Lady Iſle is 'about half a mile in length, of an oval figure, and lies in the 'Frith of Clyde, about 15 miles eaſt ſouth-eaſt from Holy Iſle 'in the mouth of Lamlaſh, 9 miles ſouth from Saltcots, 5 miles ſouth-weſt

an elegant octogonal temple, built by the late Fullerton, who was a gentleman of classic taste. This temple commands an extensive prospect, and is, *Baccho laetitiae datori, amicis et otio sacrum.* The Troone is an excellent situation for sea bathing, and is much resorted to by the inhabitants of Kilmarnock, and of other inland parts. People from Elgin carry on fishing of salmon at the Troone, and the Black-rock which is near a mile to the southward. In dry summers they are most successful, as floods give the salmon an opportunity of ascending the neighbouring rivers. Salmon, when most abundant, are sold at 4 d.

'south-west, one half south from Irvine, 2 miles west from 'Troone-point, 5 miles north north-west from Ayr, and 24 'miles north-east by east from Ailsa. The above bearings are 'ascertained by the compass, without allowing any variation. '—In the inside of this Island, opposite to the main land, 'there is good anchoring ground; and, for the direction of 'ships and vessels, 2 stone beacons are erected on the north-west part thereof, of such a height as to be easily seen at a 'distance.—The best anchor ground is where these two beacons 'are brought under one, where there is 5 fathoms water within a cable's length of the shore, and clean ground, which 'grows gradually deeper for half a mile to the south-east, till 'there is 14 fathoms water, and then it grows gradually shallower towards the bar of Ayr.—There is a ridge of rocks between Lady Isle and the Truce-point, about three quarters 'of a mile east from the largest beacon, which is not broad, 'and runs near south and north. On this ridge there are, at 'low water, 3 and 1 half fathoms, and vessels coming too near 'it are only in hazard of damaging their cables.—The half 'tide rock lies from 1 eight to 1 quarter of a mile north north-east from the largest beacon, and is covered at half floods; 'and there is a channel betwixt it and the Island 4 feet deep at 'low water, where small craft may go through, but large vessels must keep on the outside of it.—The rock called Lappoch, about 100 yards in length, is in a line with Irvine steeple, the half tide rock, and Lady Isle; and lies about 1 mile 'and 1 half south south-west from the bar of Irvine; it is dry 'at low water, and has a broad channel betwixt it and the 'main land, from 7 to 8 fathoms deep—Navigated and surveyed by James Barry.'

4 d. *per* pound. There are ſome lobſters and crabs among the rocks. Some tons of kelp are made, every third or fourth year, from the ſea weed which grows upon the rocks. Colonel Fullerton has lately built a houſe at the Troone, for drying the ſea-weed thrown in by the ſurf, and for making kelp from it. But, it is very uncertain, whether a manufacture of this nature will yield a profit ſufficient to recompenſe the loſs of manure. The Colonel has two extenſive rabbit warrens near the ſhore; both of them very thriving. While the Iſle of Man remained a diſtinct ſovereignty, the Troone was found to be a very convenient ſtation for veſſels employed in contraband trade. The Britiſh government gave the firſt check to ſmuggling upon this coaſt, by purchaſing the regal power of that petty ſtate. Happily the commutation act has nearly annihilated the hoſtile traffic. It muſt be acknowledged, that leſſening ſome duties to a certain degree would not injure the revenue; and yet more effectually cut up this buſineſs, than a fleet of cutters, or an army of cuſtom and exciſe officers. Uncontrovertible evidence muſt convince every attentive man, living upon the coaſt of Ayrſhire, of the great wiſdom of the apoſtle, in joining thoſe two precepts in one ſentence, Fear God, Honour the King. Smuggling, in its very nature, tends to weaken in the dealer that ſenſe which he has of lawful authority, to diſturb his peace, to injure his health, to corrupt his manners. Muſt it not be regretted, that men of aimable diſpoſitions ſhould be ſeduced by the temptations of this trade. Were profit and loſs upon it clearly calculated, the balance would be much againſt the profit ſide, putting health and peace and character out of the queſtion.

END OF VOLUME SEVENTH.

